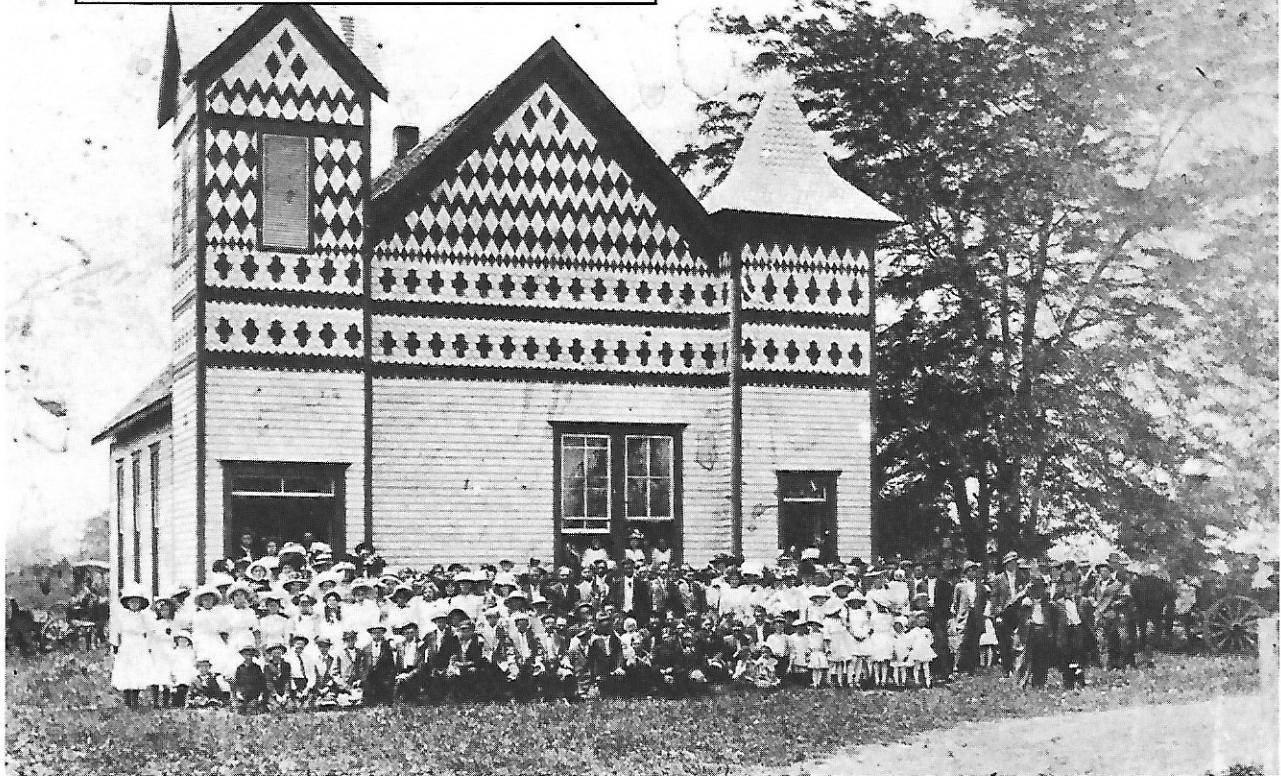


# CHURCH HISTORY

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St. Paul's EV&R Church in 1954



The Baptist Church at Denmark — From the Collection of Robert R. Morefield

## BEAUCOUP BAPTIST CHURCH

The history of Christianity in its last and finest analysis depends upon the story of individual believers and their work and worship in local churches. One such church is **Beaucoup Baptist Church**.

The name "Beaucoup" is taken from the name of the Beaucoup deep coal mine that once flourished in the vicinity of the church. Beaucoup is a French word meaning "very much." This certainly applies to our church with its large mission program, its important place in the community of Pinckneyville, and the high esteem the church commands in the Illinois Baptist State Association.

In 1914 a group of believers began to meet in Beaucoup School house, and from that group came the First Baptist Church of Beaucoup. They met on Sunday mornings for Sunday School, and when a preacher was available had "preaching services." Two times a month they met in prayer services with Friday night chosen as the appointed time.

On April 15, 1915 the church was formally constituted. The following is an excerpt of the minutes of the organizational service.

"Congregation was called to order by Bro. C. E. Bullar for the purpose of organizing a church. Bro. McCord was appointed moderator and Bro. Jeff West was appointed temporary clerk. He then read the letters of the following who became charter members: Jeff West and wife, John Bernaix and wife, Charles Wright and wife, Samuel Taylor, Elsie Taylor, Eliza J. Presswood, Etta Moody, Jack Presswood and Leona Lemmon Malone . . . Bro. West was then elected church clerk. A motion was made and carried to name the organization 'The First Baptist Church of Beaucoup.' Bro. Bullar was then extended a call as pastor. A motion was made and carried that the deacons be

appointed. They were elected as follows: Joshua Lemmons, John Bernaix, and Charles Wright . . ." So reads the historic minutes of the beginning of Beaucoup Baptist Church.

The church continued to meet in the Beaucoup School house. On October 12, 1915 the church sent a petitionary letter to the offices of Nine Mile Baptist Association requesting admission into the fellowship of churches that composed that Association.

The early years of the church were filled with the usual and sometimes unusual drama of struggle, strained finances, and almost miraculous continuance that seems to be a part of the establishment and growth of a New Testament church.

Not until May of 1924 did the church purchase ground on which to build a house of worship. One acre of ground and roadway was bought from Jack Presswood for the sum of \$175. That acre of ground is the location of our present building. The first sanctuary was erected and on the fifth Sunday of November, 1924 it was dedicated to the glory of God.

In August of 1958 a major building program resulted and completed with an all modern brick educational building. To enhance the use of such a facility, the church purchased the Lyman Rednour property to provide necessary parking space.

On March 8, 1960, just a year after the church occupied the education building, fire destroyed the sanctuary. Once again the church was without a sanctuary. Yet, a determination among the fellowship prevented any letdown or let-up. The educational building became an all-purpose building while the church deliberated and planned for a new sanctuary. In May of 1960, the church voted to build and plans were drawn for the present auditorium. This building was dedicated on Sunday, December 31, 1960.



The Beaucoup School - where we started



The story of Beaucoup Baptist Church is a continuous story. Seventeen pastors, counting the present pastor, have made their contributions of leadership, inspiration, and instruction, but it has been the people who have worked and served to make our church one of witness and fellowship.

In 1970 the church purchased the C. E. Shurtz Greenhouse property and built an all-modern, nine room pastor's home just adjacent to the parking lot of the church auditorium.

A great church looks ahead to the future with hope and vision. Today our church has a membership of 572 with a Sunday School enrollment of 609.

A list of the pastors include:

C. E. Bullar . . . 1915-17; Dwight Rushing . . . 1918-21, 1925, 1928; Marion Wilson . . . 1922, 1933-35; Albert Wright . . . 1923-24; O. T. Bigham . . . 1926-28; Lawrence Bird . . . 1929-30; Herman Emling . . . 1931; Charles Bersche . . . 1932; G. R. Tyler . . . 1932; T. R. Brown . . . 1936-42; R. W. Watson . . . 1942-44; J. R. Jenkins . . . 1944-52; J. O. Mathenia . . . 1952-62; R. L. Armistead . . . 1962-67; Vernon Wasson . . . 1968-78; George Strickland . . . 1979-85; Bob Brookman . . . 1986-



Beaucoup Baptist Church Parsonage



Beaucoup Baptist Church today

## BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Bethel had its origin shortly after WWI, in 1918, being a small group of believers served by an elderly pastor from Golconda, worshipping in private homes, and later various locations around the city. In 1926 the first resident pastor was called to serve this group which was still not an official congregation. That first pastor was the Rev. Adolph Wessel, who served only six months.

The congregation finally established itself and built a worship facility at Franklin and Madison Streets in DuQuoin, and called themselves the English Lutheran Church. They were served by the following pastors: Rev. H. Lunz (1928-1935), Rev. Roehmer, Dicke, Rauber, Hoelter, and Herkamp, all vacancies, along with students from Concordia Seminary, until 1950 when the Rev. W. Dierks was installed as the first full-time pastor in fifteen years. He served until 1956.

In 1956 the English Lutheran Church became a dual parish with Trinity, Herrin. Pastor Arnold Walta was installed and served from 1958 to 1960. During this time the congregation

adopted the new name of Bethel Lutheran Church.

The Bethel congregation was then served by the Rev. Arthur Erb (1961-1966). In October of 1966, Rev. Carl Heidel of Pinckneyville became vacancy pastor and Bethel soon became part of Resurrection Parish along with Trinity, Conant, and Zion, Pinckneyville. During this time, Bethel built their present worship facility on Highway 152, and dedicated it in 1968. Pastor Heidel served until June, 1970. The Rev. Timothy Bickel served the Resurrection Parish from 1971 to 1975. Then a vacancy occurred, and on January 1, 1976, Resurrection Parish was dissolved.

Bethel Lutheran was then served by vacancy pastors until June, 1977, when the Rev. R. W. Roper was installed. During his pastorate the congregation celebrated its 50th anniversary in September, 1978. Pastor Roper continued to serve until 1981. He was followed by the Rev. Walter Keller (1981-1984).

In August, 1984, the Rev. Robert Dibell was installed and is presently serving. Bethel's membership stands at 102 baptized and 86 communicant members.

## CROSS BAPTIST CHURCH

The Cross Baptist Church, which is located 4½ miles north of Route 154 and ¼ mile west of White Walnut Road, was chartered in 1910, with the Oak Grove Baptist Church, lending a hand of fellowship. The first building burnt in 1939. The present main building was built in 1940, with an addition being added in 1974.

## FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, CUTLER

On December 26, 1929, the First Missionary Baptist Church of Cutler was officially organized. A council of nine Baptist ministers and deacons from churches in the Nine Mile Association directed this organizational meeting. There were ten charter members. The first step toward a building program was taken by the church in February of 1930.

Construction of a building began immediately, and the one room, frame structure was completed and dedicated on June 29, 1930. That frame building served the church until 1942, when a basement and baptistry were added. In 1968 the church again entered a building program and added its current educational building.

In 1980, in time for the celebration of its fiftieth anniversary, the church completed a remodeling program in which the auditorium was extended, the baptistry raised, and dressing rooms were added.

Seventeen men have served as pastors of the church, including the present pastor, Wesley Henson. The membership has increased from ten charter members to 194.

## IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

In the year 1861, a group of Lutheran families in the vicinity of Lost Prairie began to gather for church services.

On March 18, 1867, this group of Lutherans decided to organize a Christian congregation. Seven men signed the constitution. Charter members were: Philip Kraeft, J. G. Beck, Jr., Peter Denninger, G. Beck, Sr., A. Denninger, Jacob Wildermuth and John Bauersach.

The organization now deemed it necessary to erect a church building. Two acres of ground was donated by Philip Kraeft for this purpose. The total cost of the church being \$1,256.20, on January 12, 1868, the church was dedicated to the Glory of God. They had a membership of fourteen. The Rev. Thomas Schoech was now called as pastor and was ordained and installed on July 29, 1872. A parsonage was built in 1871 and a parochial school in 1876; also, the same year the congregation affiliated itself with the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod.

A new building was erected and dedicated on September 19, 1897. On August 13, 1899, work was begun on a new and larger parsonage and in 1907 a new school was erected. This school served Immanuel until 1951 when the declining number of pupils prompted the congregation to close the school.

On December 18, 1957, a tornado damaged the church making replastering and repainting of the interior necessary.

On March 14, 1965, Immanuel, Trinity and Zion Lutheran congregations signed an agreement uniting them into a multiple parish.

Pastor Heidel continued serving Immanuel congregation until December, 1967. On December 21, 1967, Immanuel Lutheran Church and school was destroyed by a tornado.

## LIBERTY CHURCH

On a hot Sunday afternoon 23 June 1901 some people gathered at the Greenbriar school building located about 9 miles SE of Tamaroa (Sec 19 Twp 5-1). The Rev. J.C. Kinison, a missionary of the American Sunday School Union, met with them and organized a Sunday School.

In May 1902 a Methodist Church was organized. They met in the school house for a year, and after finding it too small to accommodate the congregation, decided to erect a church building. This they did and the new building was dedicated in September 1903.

Money was hard to come by but they raised it by the usual means of an ice cream supper and by selling a quilt to the highest bidder. On dedication day the amount of the remaining debt was raised and the church was dedicated free of debt.

By about 1949 interest had dwindled so much and times had changed so, that services were no longer practical and the members went elsewhere. Today the remains of the building still stands.





**Highway 51 South • P.O. Box 227 • Du Quoin, IL 62832**  
**Telephone: 1-(618) 542-4319 or 542-6800**

The Christian Fellowship Church, located south of DuQuoin along U.S. Route 51, has a history of small beginnings, but has grown over the years to a present (May 1987) average Sunday morning attendance of approximately 385 people. The church is housed in a ten thousand square foot building. Attached to the church is a Christian School, as a ministry of the church. The school has sixteen classrooms and two offices. It was constructed in the summer and fall of 1984, with a gymnasium being added in 1985 and 86. At the time of this writing, the school has an enrollment of 115 students, ranging from kindergarten age four through high school grade eleven. There are eleven full time and four part time teachers.

The small beginnings go back to September of 1972, when a few junior high age youth requested a fellowship type meeting at the home of Percy and Fay Pavloff. As the months and years went by, the numbers increased and expanded to include adults as well. By the time five years had passed, there were about thirty-five people attending the fellowship meetings. During that time, Brother Richard Stoner had much input into the spiritual lives of the group, serving as an acting apostle to the group, even after moving to a New Testament work in Minnesota. In 1975, the Pavloffs attended a New Testament church camp in the Minneapolis area, where they met Brother Robert Ewing, an apostle from Waco, Texas. Brother Robert came to minister often and continues to do so to date. It was during the first five years of the fellowship that Brother Pavloff was set in as an elder, and Brother Harold Provart as a deacon.

By September of 1977 the group had outgrown the Pavloff living room and moved their meetings to the day care facility

on South Washington street. It was not until December of 1979 that the group began meeting on Sundays, previously having met on Monday nights only. They began having night meetings on Thursdays, and Sunday School classes began in 1979. The church was incorporated as a church in the State of Illinois in November of 1978, and Brother Percy Pavloff was ordained and set in as pastor in June of 1980. Brother Lon McPherson was set in as elder, and Brother Brad Morgenstern was set in as a deacon. The group continued to grow.

In October of 1980 the group purchased a thirteen acre tract of land south of DuQuoin, quickly converted the farm house and garage into church facilities, and began meeting there in January of 1981. However, by the spring of the next year, it became obvious that The Lord was leading them to construct a new and much larger facility. From an initial drawing on a brown paper sack, the facility soon became a reality. The first services were held in the church on February 6, 1983. On April 24, 1983, the building was dedicated, and Brothers Gilbert Stockton and Rex Brown were set in as elders.

At the time of this writing, it is difficult to imagine what The Lord can and will do with the work He has begun in DuQuoin at the Christian Fellowship Church. The body of believers and the leadership alike, are excited and anticipate much more greater works coming forth in the years ahead, should The Lord tarry. It is difficult to imagine the inconceivable in man's eyes, but The Lord has brought forth this church and purposed it for great and mighty works in His Kingdom.

## DU QUOIN CHURCH OF CHRIST

The Du Quoin Church of Christ was established on December 1, 1968 at 357 East Franklin Street. Present for the first worship service were: Wayne and Joyce Dinkins with children, Deborah, Stephen and Anna, Ralph and Anita Krazer with Steven and David, Richard and Janice Valier with Barry and Mina, Cevene Slater, Grace Seaman with Richard, Laneta Green with Carl and Richard.

The present minister, Wayne U. Dinkins, and his family moved from the Union Hill Church of Christ, Hardin, KY. in November, 1968. The Union Hill church made possible the purchase of the Du Quoin church building. Through the years, several families have had membership in the congregation. In June 1979 Orville and Bessie Pyle moved to DuQuoin and have contributed much toward the spiritual development of the church.

For several years the DuQuoin church has offered Bible instructions to the community on Radio Station WDQN. The International Gospel Hour with V. E. Howard as speaker is broadcast each Sunday morning and evening. Area Churches of Christ have cooperated in presenting "The Amazing Grace Bible Class," and "The Herald of Truth" gospel broadcast on television each Sunday.

The DuQuoin Church of Christ is the only church of its kind in Perry County. It is dedicated to the belief in the Bible as the infallible Word of God (2 Tim. 3:16-17) and in Jesus Christ as the original founder and head of the church (Matt. 16:18). Congregations of the Church of Christ are independent with no central organization or headquarters above the local church.

Worship services are very simple with emphasis on individual participation. Worship in song is by congregational singing without any mechanical instrumental accompaniment. Communion at the Lord's Supper is observed every Sunday.

Membership into the church is obtained by each believer's free acceptance of God's power and authority and Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God. Believers also repent of their sins, confess their faith in Jesus, and are immersed in water for the remission of their sins. In their new life as Christians, they follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit as the will of God as revealed in the Bible. They live in the hope of an eternal home with God in Heaven.



The Du Quoin Church of Christ





## DU QUOIN MINISTERIAL ALLIANCE

This symbol which was adopted as the Logo of the Du Quoin Ministerial Alliance in the mid 1970's seems quite appropriate. When the top part of an anchor is in the shape of a cross, it is called an Anchor Cross, a symbol of Jesus Christ our sure Anchor. This cross is carried over from the days of persecution before Constantine, when Christians were able to see Christian Hope in the anchor, while non-Christians saw nothing but an anchor. An anchor is a symbol of a Hope, "Sure and Steadfast" (Heb. 6:19).

The base of that anchor forms a ship sailing on rough waters. This is a symbol of the church. The imagery of the ship being tossed about by stormy waves, yet reaching its destination, is descriptive of the church as it is opposed by persecution, heresy, and schism. With a slight use of imagination, the type of church building which is long, high and narrow in design can be seen to resemble a ship. Thus it reminds us that the Church is a ship on the sea of life.

Although we do not have a written record prior to 1947 with regard to the Alliance, the pastors of this community have always maintained a close working relationship since the turn of the century. In talking with some of the families of those pastors, we found that during the years of the great depression (1930's) the primary concern of the pastors was feeding the hungry families of the community. They established a relief agency at that time distributing food twice each week. The food distribution center was administered by Rev. Mgs. Cyril N. Haffner, Pastor of Sacred Heart Catholic Parish; Rev. W. M. Maxton, Pastor of First Presbyterian, Rev. Vernon G. Miles, Pastor of First Baptist, Rev. Wm. B. Weltge, Pastor of St. John Evangelical, Rev. H. B. Shoaff, Pastor of First Methodist. Also during World War II the pastors worked closely with the American Red Cross, in transporting troops home for emergencies, and hardship cases.

It was not until 1985 that the Alliance drafted a Constitution for their organization, at which time a statement of purpose was drafted which is as follows: "The Alliance functions to *promote Christian Unity* among the churches. The Alliance cooperates to *minister to both the physical and spiritual needs* of the citizens of Du Quoin and Transients. The Alliance cooperates to *have a voice in public issues and concerns*. The Alliance should be a *support group* for the pastors of the Du Quoin area."

This purpose as stated merely describes the spirit which always prevailed among the Du Quoin Ministers.

According to the first written records the following churches were involved in the organization: First Christian, John F. Scantland, Pastor; First Baptist, Dr. I. E. Lee, Pastor; First Methodist, Mayo Bowles, Pastor; St. John Evangelical, J. H. Mauthe, Pastor; First Presbyterian, W. S. Erwin, Pastor; St. Paul Baptist, C. J. Brown, Pastor; Smith Memorial (A.M.E.) Horace Brown, Pastor. One of their primary concerns at that time was to provide a pastoral ministry to the patients of Marshall Browning Hospital. They occasionally purchased a religious book for the Du Quoin Public Library as well as the subscription to two per-

iodicals: "The Christian Century" and the "Christian Herald." They also supported the Federal Council of Churches and the American Red Cross financially.

It was not until 1956 that a daily radio devotional program is recorded. It was a ten minute period of time which was called "The Family Altar." The radio program then was changed to a thirty minute devotional on Sundays, which seemed to be short lived. Again that radio devotional was changed to a fifteen minute period of time each morning Monday through Friday. And because of time priorities, in the mid 1970's it was changed to a five minute period. In 1959 that ministry was broadened to include the pastors and churches of the surrounding area.

They encouraged the Du Quoin Business Association to bring new businesses into the community such as the P. R. MALLORY CO., TURCO MANUFACTURING CO., AND PHELPS DODGE CABLE CORP.

In 1957 we have the first reference to providing aid to transients in this area. In the early seventies this ministry was broadened to a cooperative effort with the Du Quoin City Police Department.

Beginning in the late forties they sponsored a chapel program at the High School on the first and third Wednesdays of each month. However this was discontinued in 1965, because it was ruled unconstitutional.

From time to time the Alliance has taken a stand for or against community policy. For example, they opposed the sale of liquor and shopping on Sunday from 12:00 noon until 6:00 P.M. by purchasing 2000 bumper stickers: "KEEP SUNDAY HOLY - DON'T SHOP." In 1962 they sponsored a Church School Class of the Mentally Handicapped children of the surrounding area. This class met for several years at St. John's United Church of Christ.

In the most recent years the primary accomplishments of the alliance has been to bring the community together in common worship experiences such as on Thanksgiving Eve, and for noon day devotions throughout Holy Week. Funds raised through these services were used to purchase food and lodging of transients passing through our city. They also sponsored an annual U.N.I.C.E.F. drive under the leadership of Dr. Freddie A. Banks, Principal of the John B. Ward School. In appreciation to Dr. Banks, the alliance recognized him with special recognition for outstanding educational accomplishments and Christian leadership. We have fully cooperated with the schools to sponsor Baccalaureate Services.

Another major thrust of the organization has been to support a community pantry for the needy families in Perry County, through the Western Egyptian Economic Opportunity Council, of which Mrs. Dorothy Benedict is the administrator. With the increasing closing coal mines and increased unemployment, the community pantry has been a much needed service.

The present churches and pastors holding membership in the alliance are as follows:

First United Methodist, Joe Hankla, pastor; First Christian, Everett Munson, interim pastor; First Baptist, Bill Clark, pastor; First Presbyterian, Rick Hoffarth, pastor; St. John's United Church of Christ, Fred Fieker, pastor; Sacred Heart Catholic, Steve Humphrey, pastor; Bethel Lutheran, Robert Dibell, pastor; Old Du Quoin Baptist, Louis Kunz, pastor; Christian Fellowship Church, Percy Pavloff, pastor; Corner Stone of Faith, Gerald Wright, pastor; Sunfield United Methodist, Everett Weiss, pastor; Tamaroa Christian, Tom Armour, pastor; The Church of God, Dale Payton, pastor.

# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF DU QUOIN

Du Quoin's First Baptist Church building, located at the corner of Washington and Park Streets, has stood as both a physical and spiritual landmark since its dedication on May 2, 1926.

The history of this church began on May 30, 1857, when a group of fifteen met for the specific purpose of organizing a Baptist Church. This meeting was held at 136 N. Washington Street, the home of Christopher Winters, a great-grandfather of the current resident, F. Mark Miller. Preaching the first Sunday morning sermon was Bro. S. H. Bundy, Benton, Illinois, followed that evening by Bro. Sampson.

The church was received into fellowship of the Nine Mile Association on October 15, 1857 with 21 members. The church voted to affiliate with the Southern Baptist Convention January 9, 1907. The Illinois Baptist State Association was organized in Pinckneyville on January 31, 1907, and affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention in May, 1910.

For a period of time, the church met in McClure's Hall, where the public school was also held. When the Presbyterian Church was built, the Baptist congregation furnished the pews and shared the building on alternating Sundays. Still without a home of its own, the church worshipped at the building of the First Christian Church.

Seven years after its organization, the First Baptist Church building was erected, in 1864 on North Mulberry Street. One peculiar feature was the choir loft in the back of the auditorium. When the congregation was singing, they turned to face the choir. The brick building was dedicated on March 26, 1865. Through the years it was enlarged and remodeled three times. Still, the building could not contain its growing membership. The men's Bible class met at the Grand Theater and the juniors met at the Lyric Hall. Plans were soon underway for a new, larger building.

The present Baptist Church now stands on the exact spot where Moses Winters and family, who were charter members, lived. The cost of the new building was \$187,000. During the week of the dedication services, an organ recital was given on the fine, three manual Kilgen organ. Performing was Fountain P. Leigh, son of building committee member, Dr. J. T. Leigh.

The church has been served by 32 pastors: Those ministering for long periods of time were Rev. Marion Teague, 16 years; Dr. I. E. Lee, 14½ years; Rev. W. T. (Jack) Branon, 11 years. Rev. Bill C. Clark, the current pastor, has served since 1982. Eleven men from First Baptist Church have been ordained to the Gospel ministry.

For 43½ years, Miss Jacqueline Beck served as organist, secretary, office administrator and educational assistant. Upon her retirement, she was honored as "Sweetheart of First Baptist Church" on February 14, 1982.

The purpose of the church is manifold - to proclaim the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, educate people in the ways of the Lord, engage in corporate worship and praise, and evangelize the world, making disciples and baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Many ministries are used to obtain these goals.

Since its organization, the church has carried on a planned program of Bible teaching in the Sunday School with classes for all age groups. Baptist Young People's Alliance for training in church membership was organized in the early 1880's by Rev. Marion Teague. Other names were Baptist Young People's Union (B.Y.P.U.), Training Union and today, Church Training.

The Woman's Missionary Union (W.M.U.) was organized in

1884. This organization has supported the mission program of the Southern Baptist Convention, making others aware of home, state, and foreign missions. The W.M.U. sponsors organizations for the youth - Acteens, G.A.'s and Mission Friends. The Brotherhood, a men's organization, began in 1941. They promote the place of men in the entire church program and sponsor the Royal Ambassador program for boys.

Music has always played an important part in church worship. With Bill Smith as the present music and youth director, there are five vocal choirs, four handbell choirs, and one brass ensemble.

Other organizations include Children's Worship for grades one through four. This has been held during the morning worship since September, 1975. Another important activity of First Baptist Church is Vacation Bible School conducted each summer.

The Puppet Ministry, a group of active and enthusiastic young people was formed in 1976. During 1986, twenty three performances were given in the community.

Senior Adult XYZ (Extra Years of Zest) have enjoyed varied activities and outings in the past 25 years. Church members also appreciate the services of the Bereavement Ministry.

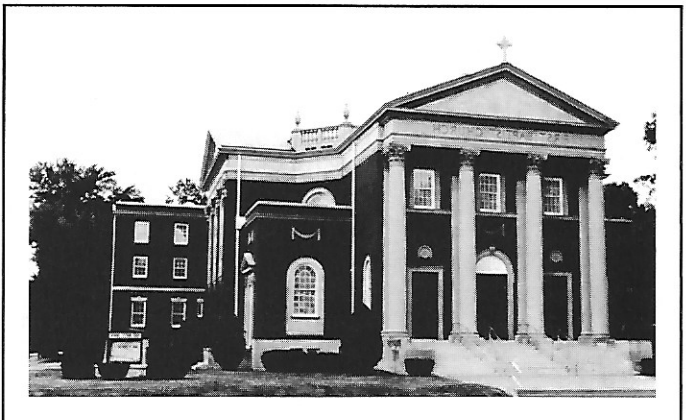
Prayer services are held each Wednesday evening. In September, 1983, family night dinners were added to the Wednesday schedule. Revivals are scheduled each spring and fall. A nursery, with paid and volunteer workers, is provided for all church services.

First Baptist Church's radio ministry began in 1947 when the morning worship service was broadcast over WJPF in Herrin. In 1953, a change was made to the new radio station WDQN in DuQuoin. Currently both the morning and evening services are broadcast.

Twenty deacons assist the pastor with a family ministry plan, while five trustees have the responsibility of the church properties.

Records show that church anniversaries have been celebrated by planting a tree. South of the original church, an evergreen marked the 25th year. A maple, oak, and Colorado blue spruce have since been planted for 75, 100 and 125 year anniversaries. "These shall stand as a testimony to the power of God to give life, both physical and spiritual."

The First Baptist Church shall continue to look toward the future, believing its achievements will be limited only by its vision, faith, and dedication to involvement, trusting always in the leadership of the Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. *Submitted By: Helen Fry, Lavina Jones, Ruth Neal*



Our Present Home Built in 1926 - Remodeled in 1969



## FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF PINCKNEYVILLE

On July 30, 1865, nine people gathered in a little hall on South Main Street to form the First Baptist Church of Pinckneyville, Illinois. Those nine were: Andrew B. Hagard, Ellen J. Hagard (his wife), Richard M. Davis, Catherine P. Davis (his wife), Charles Song, Lucy Malone, James P. Mason, Louisa Denny and Parthenia Turner.

On March, 1868, the church was incorporated, taking the name of First Baptist Church of Pinckneyville. The new building cost \$3,080.00 and became free of debt February 14, 1874. This new church building was dedicated in 1868. In 1905 the historic Brick Church was taken down to make room for a new church building. On New Year's Day, 1940, a fire raged through the church building. Extensive remodeling had to be done. Then in 1958 a new sanctuary was built.

During the ministry of Carvin C. Bryant (1954-1958), the Educational Building, which provided one hundred rooms, was built at a cost of \$171,000.00 and was dedicated June 5, 1955. Former pastors Lee Swope and Archie Brown spoke at the Dedication Service. Dr. Noel M. Taylor, Executive Director of Illinois Baptist State Association, also spoke at the service. The Dedication Message was brought by Dr. Oliver R. Shields, pastor of the Lafayette Park Baptist Church in St. Louis, Missouri.

On October 2, 1957 the church voted to sponsor a Mission at Clarendon Hills, Illinois. Jerreal B. Buchanan of Wadesboro, North Carolina was called as pastor. He began his work on March 1, 1958 with only six members. The Mission was constituted into a church on March 1, 1958 and was named First Baptist Church of Clarendon Hills. Property was acquired on which the first unit of a master building was constructed and dedicated on March 6, 1960. Maurice Swinford brought both the charge and the Dedication Message at the Dedication Service. The church now has a membership of 398.

On November 5-6-7, 1957, to celebrate the Golden Jubilee year of the Illinois Baptist State Association, the State Convention was again held in Pinckneyville where it was organized in 1907. The opening session was held in the High School Auditorium with an attendance of more than 675. The other sessions were held in the First Baptist Church Auditorium. Dr. Archie Brown, pastor of First Baptist Church in Vandalia, was elected President of the Illinois Baptist State Association.

Three former pastors of Pinckneyville First also served as

President of Illinois Baptist State Association. They are: Dr. I. E. Lee (1935-36), Reverend I. E. Miller (1945-46), and Reverend Maurice Swinford (1964-65).

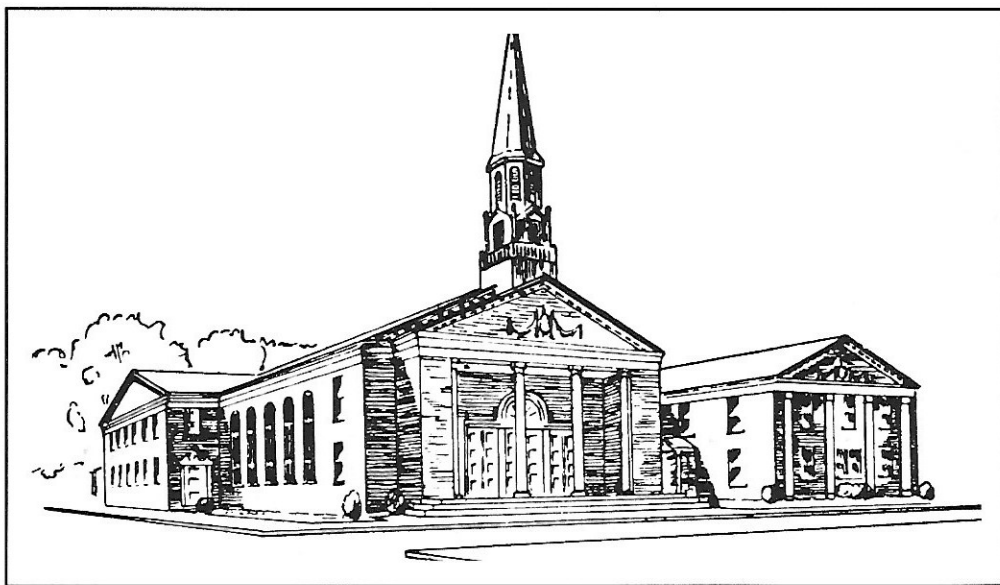
April 2, 1958 the church called Reverend Maurice Swinford to become our thirty-second pastor. While here at First Baptist Church, a new Sanctuary was dedicated May 1, 1960. There are so many beautiful things about our new Sanctuary, but one is of special significance. On top of the 98 foot high steeple is an open stainless steel Bible which contains an actual Bible. To many of us it seems to say: "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly of heart and ye shall find rest unto your souls" (Matthew 11:28-29).

One hundred years is a long time. Our church now has its 34th pastor. Those preceding Cecil Clegg are: Pendleton W. Jones, John H. Mize, L. C. Carr, Wm. H. Carner, David Matlock, David Huggins, E. C. H. Willoughby, J. Carroll Harris, W. A. Jarrel, James W. W. Hunsacher, Jacob Cole, G. W. Danbury, C. W. Alexander, John D. Hooker, J. T. Brown, L. L. Stierwalt, J. B. Webb, J. L. Payne, P. C. Watson, J. A. McCord, I. E. Lee, R. A. Morriss, E. H. Zipprodt, I. E. Miller, W. T. Waring, Jack DeVore, T. W. Nelson, Ewell Payne, Lee Swope, Archie Brown, Carvin C. Bryant, Maurice Swinford and Charles Boling. On February 1, 1987 First Baptist Church called Reverend Cecil G. Clegg to be our 34th pastor.

A church is a mighty organization. Every member is a link binding the past to the future. We who are members now have received our heritage from those who have gone before. They, our predecessors, have kept their obligation to us, their descendants. Let us be no less zealous as we look to the future; and may we say with the Psalmist, "If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning and let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth if I prefer not Jerusalem above my chief joy."

And, as a church may we take to ourselves the admonition found in Proverbs, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart and lean not to thine own understanding. In all ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct thy paths."

*Copied by Mrs. Harold Guenther  
Originally Written by Mrs. Helen Kuykendall and Mrs. Irene Boquillon*



The First Baptist Church of Pinckneyville

## FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF TAMAROA

The Tamaroa Baptist Church was constituted January 12, 1859. The officiating minister was elder P. Hagler. Other charter members were Nelson Holt, Harriet Eaton, E. G. Bell, John B. Kelly, John W. Staton, Martha Roots, Rhoda A. Barker, Martha A. Bell, Elizabeth Kelly, Eliza A. Staton, Louisa Ether-ton, Lydia Eaton, Barthana Bell, Elizabeth Davis, Alfred Tur-man, Charles Kellogg, and Edmond Barker.

Soon after its organization, the church received a number of new members and was enrolled in the Nine Mile Association in 1859. Mr. Hagler served as pastor until January 1864, and the church was without a pastor until July 1866. For the first ten years, the church made little progress. Meetings were held in the Methodist Church until 1860 when the school house was secured. In April 1869, the church moved back to the Methodist Church.

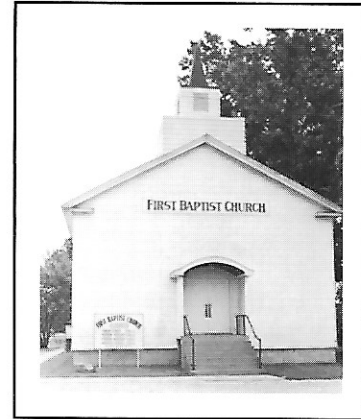
According to church records, a new frame church was built at a cost of \$3500. The church was dedicated January 26, 1871. Old church records describe the church building as "a frame building, size 32 by 48 feet, with gallery and a good bell". The main building, remodeled inside in 1985, still stands and is used as the church sanctuary. In 1960, a large addition was built which included classrooms upstairs, a kitchen and combination dining/assembly room downstairs.

In 1975, Tamaroa Elementary School District #5 held classes for second grade pupils in the education section of the church. This was necessary as extensive remodeling was being done on the public school.

Many pastors have served the church since its founding. It

has served through the years providing those services for which people look to the church. There have been periods of increase and periods of decline. Under the leadership of Reverend Eugene Baggott, the church began a time of renewal and growth. Unfortunately, Reverend Baggot was killed in an auto accident in August 1986. An intensive remodeling of the inside of the church has been accomplished during the past three years. The sanctuary is a beautiful and functional place to worship.

Reverend Paul Holder is now the pastor. The church has a vision of continued service to Christ, growth in membership, continued building improvement, and a commitment to meet the religious needs of the people of the Tamaroa community.



The First Baptist Church of Tamaroa

## FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

312 E. MAIN

DU QUOIN, IL.

ONE HUNDRED THIRTY YEARS

"DOING THE LORD'S WORK"

1857-1987

Dr. K. Everett Munson, Interim Minister



The First Christian Church of Du Quoin



# FIRST PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

First and South Streets  
Pinckneyville, Illinois

The First Pentecostal Church of Pinckneyville, had its beginning in a prayer meeting in the home of Mrs. Jane Lemons early in the year of 1925, conducted by evangelists Claude Harper and Albert Davis.

After this first service, these ministers obtained the Ben Bishop Building on South Walnut Street. Meetings were held nightly in this building for the space of about two weeks. Later a meeting was held in the Perry County Courthouse with Miss Florence Cluny and Miss Grace Cook as the evangelists. From these services the congregation moved to what was known as the Shirley Brick Building and another revival was conducted by Evangelist Roscoe Harper. In 1925, under the leadership of Rev. Harper, a brush arbor was built on the grounds where the First Pentecostal Church now stands at the corner of First and South Streets.

In the year 1926 the foundation of a building was begun with William W. Winn as the carpenter.

Ministers who succeeded Rev. Harper as pastor of the church for the ensuing years until 1932 were: Rev. Mahue, Rev. Oscar Hughes, Rev. J. C. Brickey, Rev. Earl Toole, Rev. Earl Hahn, and Rev. A. D. VanHoose. In 1932, Rev. S. S. Grant was called as the pastor. He remained as pastor until his death in 1946.

Under Rev. Grant's leadership, a basement was constructed and a steam furnace was installed. The property at 305 E. Kaskaskia was purchased for a parsonage. During his time as pastor, the church enjoyed a phenomenal spiritual growth. Many souls were won to the message of Biblical truth for which the First Pentecostal Church stands.

After the death of Rev. Grant, Rev. Harold Crotser of Abilene, Kansas was called as the pastor. During his ministry of seven years, the congregation continued to progress and in 1948 another edifice was erected. It was constructed over the same basement, but with an enlargement which included many

new Sunday School rooms and a larger auditorium with a balcony and equipped with hardwood pews. Under his leadership, the entire indebtedness was cleared away and the church began planning for a new parsonage to be constructed on the grounds adjoining the church property.

Rev. Crotser resigned in 1952 to enter the evangelistic field. Following him, Rev. Dennis Lyerla of Rolla, Missouri was chosen as the pastor.

During Rev. Lyerla's time as pastor, a six-room ranch-type brick parsonage with a full basement and double garage was built. It was valued at \$25,000 at that time and was completely paid off.

After Rev. Lyerla resigned, Rev. Paul Froese of Belleville, Illinois was called to pastor the church in January, 1958. Almost immediately, an enlargement program was begun: an addition of 30' by 40' was added to the building which provided much needed Sunday School rooms. In 1968 another addition of 16' by 30' was added on which provided a nursery and pastor's office. In 1973, the front entrance was completely remodeled.

There have been many other changes and improvements throughout the years. The Lord has, indeed, been gracious to the First Pentecostal Church of Pinckneyville, Illinois for which we are all very thankful.

## PINCKNEYVILLE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

In 1976, the need for a Christian School was felt, so a school was started under the auspices of "Accelerated Christian Education" of Lewisville, Texas. The school has been a tremendous help to a number of students. The individualized training is of great assistance to the young people.

In 1986, a building was started to serve as a gymnasium and fellowship hall. It will eventually house the school. The building will be completed soon and will be put to use.



The First Pentecostal Church of Pinckneyville

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DU QUOIN

"We rear this house for thee, O God,  
A house for prayer and praise,  
A house in which to worship thee,  
And learn thy holy ways."

Those lines are from a hymn written by Rev. T. E. Spilman and sung at the cornerstone laying of the new Presbyterian Church of Du Quoin, Ill on Sept. 9, 1890.

In its 131 years of existence in Du Quoin, the Presbyterian Church has had three "houses," all at the same site, a gift of Keyes and Metcalf, who made the original survey of Du Quoin.

Three years after the town came into being, the new Du Quoin Presbyterian Church was organized, the result of a meeting on Sunday, Sept. 14, 1856. Ten persons petitioned that meeting, Alvah I. Sprague, Mary Sprague, Harriet E. Keyes, Edwin N. Smith, Sarah S. Smith, Lucius B. Skinner, George S. Smith, Juliana S. Smith and Jane C. Smith, who came from Old Du Quoin, and Jane Hunt, who presented a letter from the First Congregational Church of Vernon, Conn. George S. Smith was elected and ordained as the first ruling elder at the organizational session.

The church's first pastor was Rev. W. S. Post, "lately of New York," who served on a half-time basis, beginning Nov. 1, 1856. The Presbyterian congregation grew rapidly, and in the fall of 1857 work began on the first church building, which was to cost \$2,500.

The year 1865 was particularly good for the young congregation, which now had 56 steadfast members. The pastor's salary was raised to \$800. Benevolence giving had increased to \$227.05 from the previous year's \$85.25.

In 1867, the Sabbath School had an enrollment of 125 with an average attendance of 90.

A new envelope system of weekly offerings was reported "working very well" in 1873.

The church's first election under the term eldership plan was held in 1876. Edwin N. Smith and William H. Holmes were chosen for 3-year terms, George M. Hinckley for a 4-year term, and George S. Smith for a 5-year term.

On Jan. 3, 1884, there was a radical change — the organ was moved from the rear to the front of the church.

George S. Smith, clerk of the Session from the time the church was organized, gave up the office in 1885 to be succeeded by Warren E. Kingsbury. Those two men and Lucius S. Smith kept the first 74 years of the church's records.

In 1887, Rev. Thomas S. Spilman came for a 20-year ministry in the church, a period of unity and growth. The church had 11 pastors in its first 31 years of existence. It would have but six in the next 100 years.

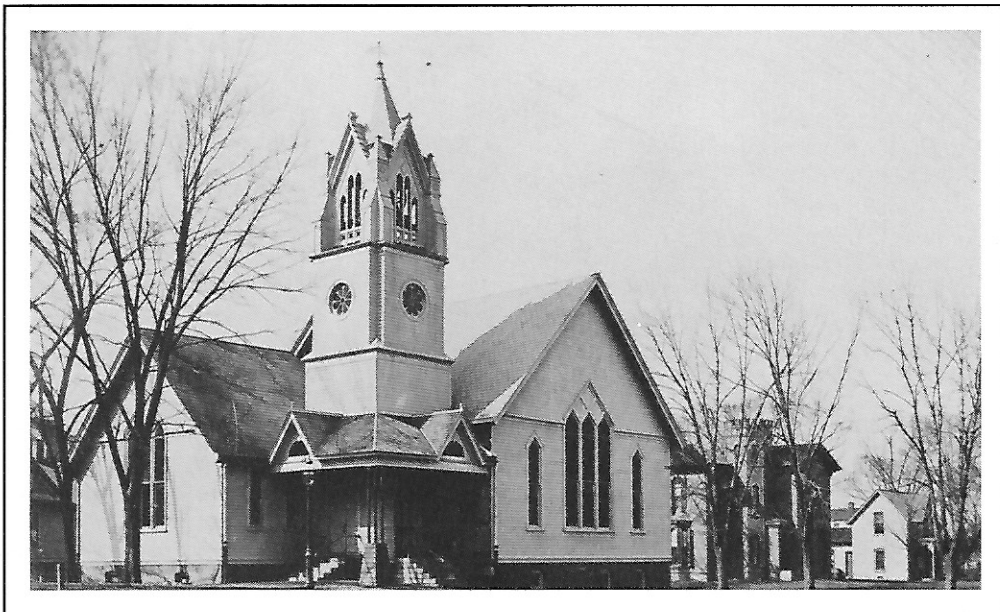
In 1890, the church building was sold and removed from the lot to make room for a larger structure costing \$6,000, later to be remodeled at an equal cost.

On a bitter cold New Year's Day in 1928, shortly after morning services, the church was destroyed by fire with a loss estimated at \$30,000 to \$35,000, including a 5-year-old pipe organ. Insurance coverage amounted to only \$10,000.

Rev. Wm. M. Maxton, who then had been pastor 21 years and who was to serve until his death 17 years later, was among the first at the scene after the blaze broke out. Following the fire, the congregation gathered at the high school for worship until the present red granite building was erected at a cost of \$75,000. The cornerstone was laid May 1, 1929, and the dedication was held Jan. 5, 1930. There were major remodelings over the years, the most recent in 1986, which included the installation of an elevator at the west entrance.

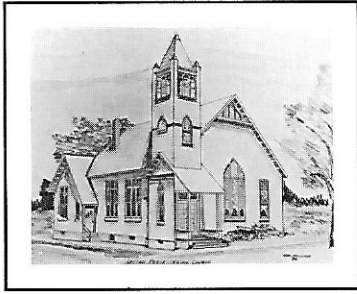
A list of ministers who have served the church is as follows: Rev. W. S. Post, 1856-1861; Rev. Thomas Lippincott, 1861-1862; Rev. Yates Hickey, 1862; Rev. James Stafford, 1862-1864; Rev. J. Jerome Ward, 1864-1865; Rev. Joseph D. Barstow, 1865-1867; Rev. Joseph D. Wood, 1867-1868; Rev. Peter S. Van Nest, 1868-1871; Rev. Edward Fish, 1871-1878; Rev. Charles T. Phillips, 1878-1882; Rev. Thomas Smith, 1882-1887; Rev. Thomas S. Spilman, 1887-1907; Rev. William M. Maxton, 1907-1945; Rev. Donald C. Morrison, 1946-1950; Rev. William S. Erwin, 1950-1977; Rev. Richard Lavender, 1978-1982; and the Rev. Richard W. Hoffarth II, 1984-to present.

Any further information you may call Rev. Rick Hoffarth at the church 542-3436.

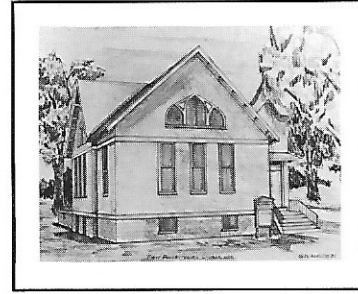


The First Presbyterian Church of Du Quoin

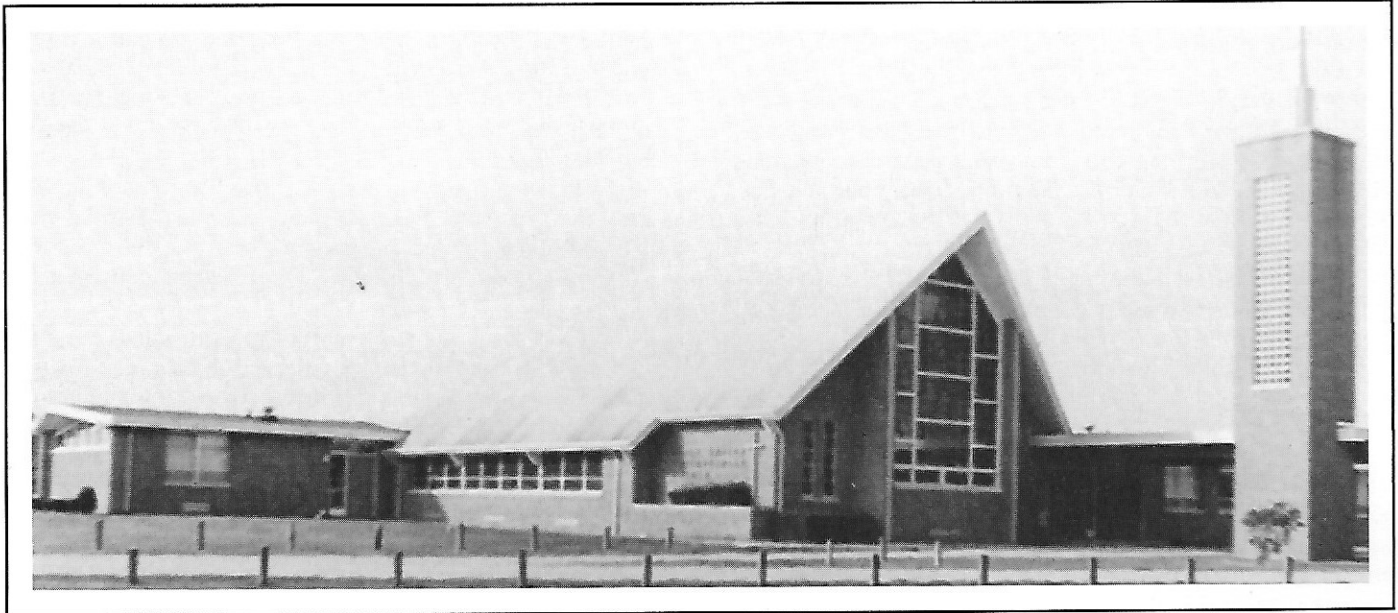
# THE FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PINCKNEYVILLE



First United Presbyterian



First Presbyterian Church



The United Presbyterian Church of Pinckneyville

THE FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH of PINCKNEYVILLE is the Presbyterian congregation in Pinckneyville.

This congregation was formed in 1959 by the merging of two Presbyterian churches that were in Pinckneyville, but the story begins much earlier.

One of the first Presbyterian churches in the area was the Hopewell Presbyterian Church which was formed in 1831. It was west of the town of Pinckneyville, on the property which is now the Hopewell Cemetery, (administered by the Hopewell Cemetery Association).

In 1884, the Hopewell congregation was instrumental in founding the Four Mile Presbyterian Church located at the intersection of the Fairgrounds Road and Pyatt Road, (near the old Baird School) where a building was erected in 1885.

In 1899, the Hopewell congregation petitioned the Presbytery asking for permission to set up a congregation in the town of Pinckneyville. The Presbytery responded and on October 19, 1900, the United Presbyterian Church of Pinckneyville was officially formed. The building that was built in 1901-02 still stands, housing today the congregation known as the First Christian Church at Douglas and West Randolph Street.

In 1911, the congregation at the Galum Presbyterian Church petitioned its governing body asking it to form a Presbyterian Church of that denomination in the city of Pinckneyville. In 1911, the Presbytery responded and formed the First Presbyterian Church of Pinckneyville located at the corner of Walnut and South Streets.

The two congregations were members of different denominations and both served the glory of God in their respective places for some years.

On April 20, 1930, the Presbytery dissolved the Four Mile Presbyterian Church and transferred members left on the roll of that congregation to churches of their choice. Some went to First Presbyterian Church in Pinckneyville; others went to the United Presbyterian Church of Pinckneyville.

Also on March 30, 1947, due to a decline in membership in the Hopewell Presbyterian Church, the Presbytery merged the Hopewell congregation with the United Presbyterian Church of Pinckneyville.

In 1958, the two denominations represented by the two congregations in Pinckneyville merged. That brought discussion concerning merging the two congregations present in the city. And, in 1959 both churches voted to endorse merger between the two congregations to form the First United Presbyterian Church of Pinckneyville.

Shortly after that merger was voted it was decided that a totally new building would be built on the outskirts of town on the current location of the First United Presbyterian Church.

The settlement of the Edward R. Hincke Estate made dollars available which would serve in large part to finance the new building. The cornerstone was laid in 1965 and the church dedicated in 1966 with divine worship held in that building until the present time.



## FIRST UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH OF DU QUOIN

Rev. Peter Jenson came to DuQuoin with the Pentecostal message in 1942. He held services in a store front on West Main, and later above Friedman's Clothing Store on East Main, until the Winters family donated a tract of land on the corner of Winters and Line. In 1943, Rev. Jenson built a small frame church from donated, used lumber. The church joined the United Pentecostal organization when it formed in St. Louis, Mo. in 1945.

Rev. Raymond Kloepper had assisted Rev. Jenson since the church was above Friedman's, and helped construct the small church. Rev. Kloepper took over as pastor when Rev. Jenson left in 1951. Succeeding him in 1955 was Rev. Harry Splector who pastored for about one year. In 1957, Rev. Wesley Odle took pastorate of the church until 1961. Rev. Charles McKinnies then became pastor, and celebrated his 25th anniversary with the church in July of 1987.

The church on Winters and Line was rebuilt in 1970 to accommodate the growing congregation. In 1976, a new church was constructed, and the congregation moved to its present location on Highway 51 south of DuQuoin. An annex and recreational facility was added in 1982. The congregation has expanded to approximately 250-300 at the present time.

From a store front on Main Street, to a small frame church on Winters and Line, to a beautiful sanctuary on the highway, the First United Pentecostal Church stands as an important part of DuQuoin's heritage, and its doors are always open to anyone who wants to come.



The First United Pentecostal Church of Du Quoin

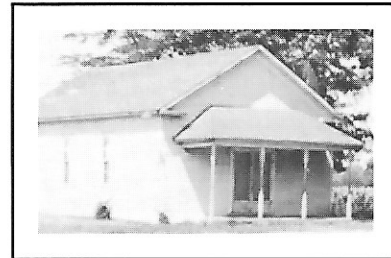
## THE FRIENDSHIP CHURCH OF CHRIST

In October, 1867 the Friendship Baptist Church was organized. With no house of worship, church services were held in Prairie Grove School House. March, 1870, the declaration of Faith, Covenant, and Rules of Decorum were repealed and the Bible alone without any written creed was adopted. Thus became 'Friendship Church of Christ.' In 1870 the original house of worship was built.

In 1953 the house of worship we now meet in was built. Much remodeling was done and a basement dug under the building. In 1960 a classroom and baptistry was added. The basement has been remodeled and three classrooms completed.

The original hand hewn logs can still be seen in the basement. The old record books show that our ancestors were ones of

great faith and ones believing in putting into action the scriptures. Let's pray that the future generations will still hold to this great truth of the Bible as our only guide.



Original House of Worship

## THE PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

The First Pentecostal Church or as it is now known as, The Tri-Co Pentecostal Church, under the leadership of the Rev. Grant from Pinckneyville, was organized in 1923. It had 20 members. One of the charter members is still living, Mrs. Lizzie Freeman. She no longer lives in Cutler.

Their services were conducted in some of the vacant buildings until they built their first church in 1936. The building was remodeled in 1961 to accommodate a fast growing congregation. Later that was too small, so a very large new church was erected across the street. This church has a large congregation every week and mid-week services are well attended.

Their pastor is the Rev. Charles Carr.

## PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The first church in the village was the Concord Reformed Presbyterian Church, located on a mound north of Cutler. The first pastor was the Rev. Michael Harshaw, who was called in 1842.

The first two years of his pastorage, no pledges for the salary were solicited. Instead people paid a fee for the pew they occupied in church. Two years after he came he was paid \$191.00 His highest salary was \$700.00.

In 1870 Rev. Harshaw and some of the members left the Reformed Presbyterian Church and organized the United Presbyterian Church.

In 1976 the denomination affiliation was changed to the reformed Presbyterian Church.

## GALUM PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The organization of Galum Presbyterian Church is quoted from the original minutes, in the original language and spelling:

"In persueance of an order of the presbytery of Kaskaskia directed to Rev'd Cyrus Riggs the with Rev'd C C Riggs to assist him attended on the twenty ninth day of June A D 1844 at the Four Mile Prairie and considered it expedient to organize A Presbyterian church wher upon A discourse being delivered the following persons presented certificates Viz William Hamilton Nancy Hamilton Mary Kimzey Jane Brown Ann Hamilton and Julina Ann Woodside and Woods L. Hamilton & the following being received on examination Viz John Hamilton Polly Matilda Foster James C. Kimzey Nancy J. Hamilton & Jane Kimzey all united in the church relation by assenting to and signing the following covenant viz" . . . . .

Of the present membership of Galum only Clara Hamilton Bigham is directly descended from a charter member.

The people met in the home of James C. Kimzey and perhaps in others. October 15, 1845, the congregation met in the James C. Kimzey home and unanimously accepted an offer from the board of church extension to aid in buying land upon which to build a church house. First a log church was built. In 1854 the present church was erected nearby.

Galum Presbyterian Church is located in Township 6-3, south of Pinckneyville three miles; four miles west of Route 127. Worship services and Sunday School were attended here.

In 1922 the congregation decided to raise the church building and put a basement under. When this was done the original log beams were left uncovered and are seen in the basement ceiling. The basement made more room for children's Sunday School classes.

Children's Day Service was extra special. Dedicated people gathered all the Galum children and others in the area and practiced the songs and recitations many afternoons. Grandchildren

living farther away spent the week with Grandparents to take part. On the second Sunday in June the front of the church was filled with flowers from home gardens (and bucketfuls of daisies from the cemetery which the children picked on the last day of practice). There was no air conditioning but no one stayed away.

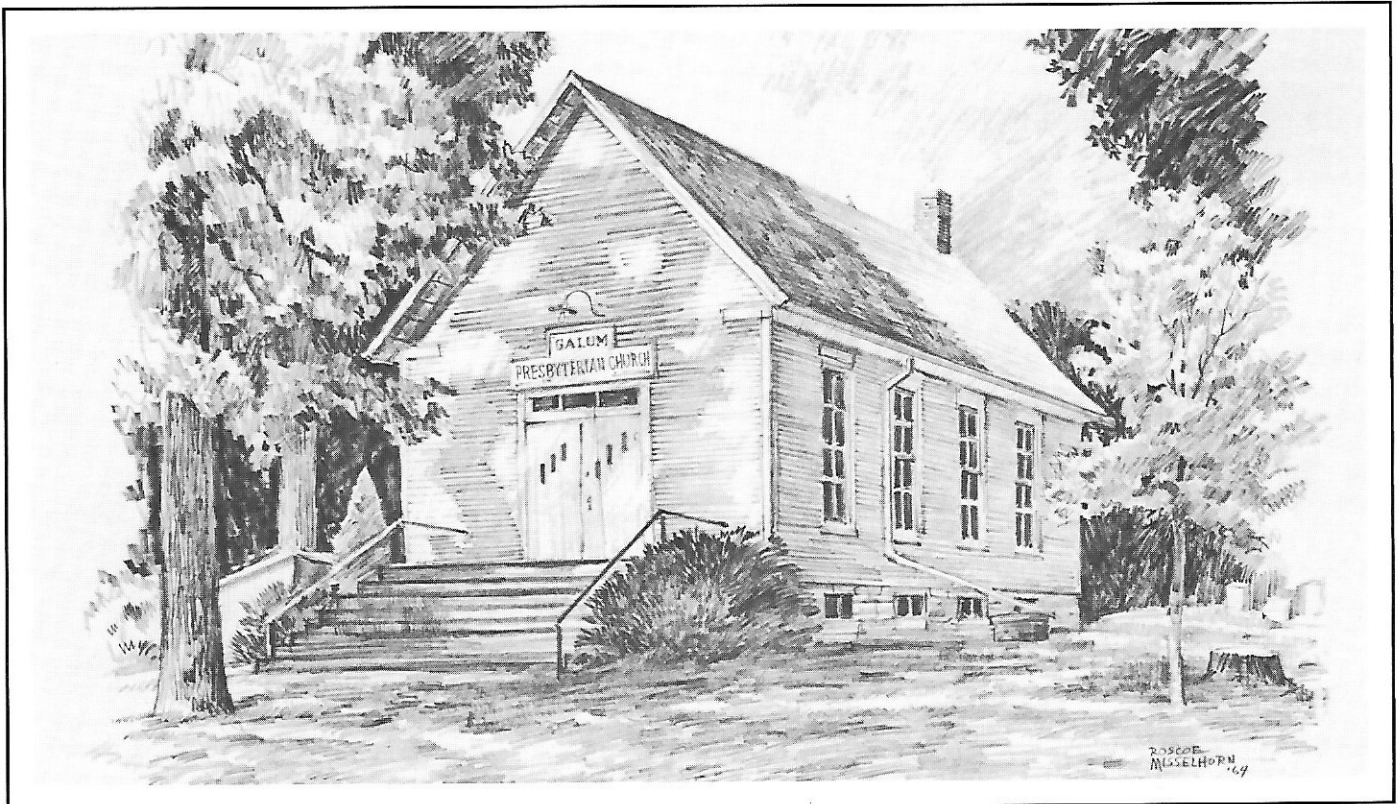
In 1933 Rev. Benjamin Thomas with Mrs. Thomas promoted a two week vacation Bible School, assisted by their daughter and son and teachers in the congregation. Vacation Bible Schools continued through the Thomas' ministry and the ministry of Rev. W. D. Roberts.

Chicken Frys were held one evening each summer for many years to raise funds for building expenses and cemetery care. This involved young and old in the work and was a "festival" time.

A cemetery association was organized May 30, 1938. The governing board is five trustees from the Church and four trustees elected at large. From that time on funds for cemetery care were raised through this organization. Eventually a Trust Fund was established.

A Memorial Day Service is a tradition at Galum. After a Worship service flowers given from home gardens are carried to the grave of each war veteran in the cemeteries.

Times change. The strip mine displaced farming communities. Young families went to other communities and churches. Former Galum sons and daughters became pillars in other churches. Presently the Congregation is very small. Some faithful members attending the congregation are not members of the Galum roll - having membership elsewhere. The present supply pastor is Rev. Leo Copeland with Mrs. Copeland. In faith Galum claims the promise "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." Matt. 18:20.



Galum Presbyterian Church



# HOLTS PRAIRIE BAPTIST CHURCH

August 10, 1872 thirty-nine people assembled together in their newly erected building at Holts Prairie 2½ miles east of Pinckneyville. Letters were granted to these people by the Nine Mile Baptist Church for the purpose of uniting together in the organization of the Holts Prairie Baptist Church. The Organization Council was made up by Rev. Peter Hagler and Bro. Wm. Malone of Nine Mile Baptist Church; Bros. J. L. Primm, S. Ballard, and J. C. Harriss, deacons of the Pinckneyville Baptist Church; Bro. Richard Wilks of Paradise Baptist Church; and Bro. L. Benedict of Concord Baptist Church. Peter Hagler was chosen Moderator and J. C. Harris Clerk of the Council.

The Articles of Faith and Church Covenant as set forth in Crowell's Church Handbook were adopted and the Council voted that this body be recognized and considered an "independent church of Jesus Christ". (quote from original minutes).

The charter members were: Edmond Dry, J. D. Strait, Peter S. Wilks, James P. Brown, James A. Wilks, Chas. W. Outhouse, Jefferson Thornbery, James Huggins, John M. Dry, John H. Harriss, Wm. W. Harriss, James Lynch, Adam W. Lynch, Albert Lynch, John Lynch, Nancy E. Dry, Julia A. Strait, Sarah E. Wilks, Francis Brown, Mary Wilks, Margaret E. Outhouse, Sallie Thornbery, Susan Huggins, Sarah Dry, L. W. Harriss, Sarah F. Turner, Eliza J. Ferguson, Mary E. Anderson, Elizabeth Trail, Charity Kelly, Naomi Williams, Catherine Williams, Elizabeth Williams, Eliza Godwin, Esculania E. Dry, Julia A. Dry, Susanna Jones, Surrilda Casey, and Onecia Casey. The church elected Peter Hagler as their pastor. Deacons and trustees were also elected and the name Holts Prairie Baptist Church was chosen.

Records show that the church met for services once a month in the early years, usually on the third or fourth Sunday weather permitting. Many services were cancelled due to bad weather conditions. Business meetings were held on Saturday evening prior to the Sunday Service. The pastor would bring a message then the church would "be seated for business". In April 1938, the church began meeting twice a month for Sunday services and having business meeting Sunday morning after regular services once a month. In December 1943, when they had better roads and transportation, they began meeting every Sunday for morning and evening services. In 1944 they began holding business meeting and prayer meetings on Wednesday evening. Homecoming services were held every year on the second Sunday in June with visiting preachers, special singing and a basket dinner on the church grounds. The church voted in later years to hold Homecoming Day in October. Special singing consisted mostly of Gospel quartets from other churches in Southern Ill.

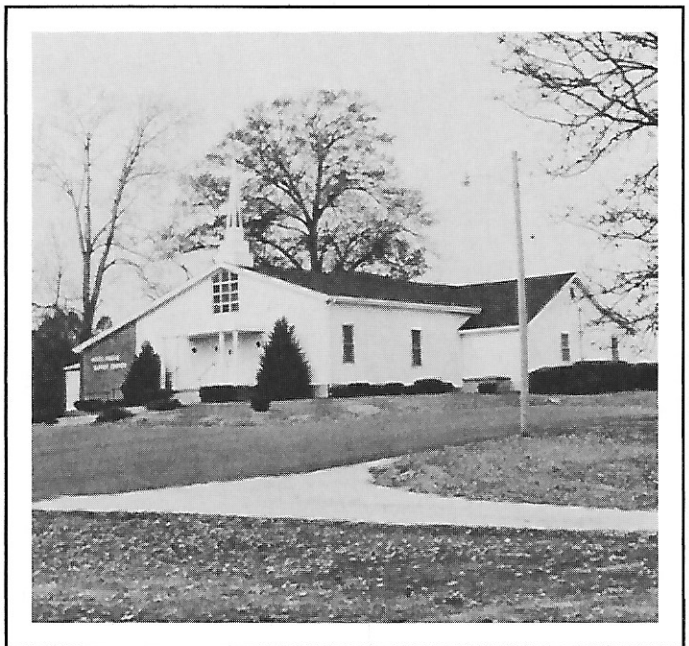
Records show that pastors were called to serve one year at a time and were paid \$120.00 to \$150.00 per year. Each year they were voted on and either re-elected for another year or dismissed as pastor. This practice was dropped in later years. The church has had 33 pastors over the years who were: Peter Hagler, W. H. Carner, J. Carroll Harriss, John A. Rodman, Marion Teague, B. F. Rodman, G. W. Danbury, W.S.D. Smith, Alexander Rhine, H. H. Wallace, J. H. Allen, R. H. Claxon, J. H. Summers, G. W. Syfert, C. C. Mitchell, J. B. Kelley, Ed Bullar, E. L. Windell, J. L. Payne, S. M. Foulon, Weldon Campbell, J. B. Hall, A. Hagler, Mal Keene, Eugene Kaufman, Herman Emling, J. J. Knight, Felix Lambert, M. L. Putnam, Kenneth Day, Lloyd W. Hagel, Ronald Lee, and the present pastor Dixon Myers. Some were called more than once at different

times. Rev. Lloyd Hagel had the longest ministry serving 31 years from November 1953 to August 1984.

Shortly after the church was organized, they voted to support missions through the Nine Mile Association raising a certain amount of money for this purpose every year. Later a percentage of the offerings was sent through the Nine Mile Assoc. and Southern Baptist Cooperative Program for missions. May 5, 1954 the church voted to withdraw from the Nine Mile Association and the Southern Baptist Convention and began doing "direct missions" as an independent Baptist Church, supporting missionaries in several countries directly through their sponsoring churches. The church now supports 27 missionaries on a regular monthly basis and many missionaries with special love offerings.



Holts Prairie Baptist Church in 1907



Holts Prairie Baptist Church from 1966-1984



The church building originally was a very plain structured little building sitting on cornerstones, but went through many changes in its 112 year history. The first remodeling of the "church house" began in January 1922 under the leadership of Pastor S. M. Foulon, when a choir loft and pulpit area were added. Also, a new entrance way with a bell tower was built on the southeast corner of the building. Dedication Service was held July 29, 1923 with the dedication sermon given by R. A. Morris, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Pinckneyville.

In 1936 the church voted to add a basement. Rev. Mal Keene was pastor at that time. With a new basement, basket dinners could then be held indoors, plus it gave more space for Sunday School classes. There were no classrooms at that time and curtains on wires were used to divide the auditorium into classrooms. It has been said many times that "whoever talked the loudest taught the most".

In May 1954 under the ministry of Rev. Lloyd Hagel, attendance increased and the church found it necessary to build on again, adding four large classrooms. These could also be used as extra seating space for the preaching service.

The church continued to grow over the next ten years with families coming from near and far until again it was necessary to expand. In 1966 plans were completed for a new auditorium and additional classrooms. The original church building was then torn down with only the classroom wings, choir loft, and basement entrance left standing. A new auditorium that would seat 220 people was built and the basement was extended to be a full basement area. "Running water", indoor restrooms, gas furnaces, and air conditioning were installed and later a baptistry was added, - wonderful modern conveniences the founding forefathers probably never dreamed of. The church enjoyed this beautiful modern building for 18 years. But it was not to end there.

In 1982 with the coal mines closing in around the church, negotiations began with Consolidated Coal Co. In November 1982 an agreement was reached and the church voted to sell the church building and lease the land to Consol. and move to a new location. Four acres of land were donated to the church by the Crawfords of Pinckneyville on Highway 154 just north

of the present location. Plans were again drawn up for a new building under the leadership of Rev. Hagel. Rev. Hagel then resigned as pastor to retire and a new pastor, Rev. Ron Lee, led the church in the building program and transition period.

The last service was held in the 112 year old building October 7, 1984 with the annual Homecoming service. Rev. Hagel brought the last message in the historical building. The building was then torn down carefully, lovingly, and tearfully - board by board - by the members of the church, salvaging the materials for other uses. The church would not allow the cemetery to be moved, so it is still there well cared for by the church.

The church was without a building for one year and met during this time at the Lion's Club building in Pinckneyville for services until the new building was completed. This was a very trying time for the church, but also a special time of learning that the church is not the building but the people. It was also a time of learning to love a new pastor and each other more than ever before.

Sunday September 29, 1985 the first service was held in the completely new church building with a seating capacity of 250. Pastor Ron Lee brought the first message on "Christ's Church Is More Important Than Buildings". Former Pastor Lloyd Hagel brought the dedication message "Serving Our Own Generation By The Will of God".

Pastor Lee continued leading the church through the completion of the transition from the old building to the new, then resigned the pastorate in Sept. 1986. The church then called Dixon Myers as the pastor. Accepting the call, he began his ministry there December 7, 1986. The church is growing again realizing the history of the church is not in the church building alone, but in the pages of the history books, the minutes of the church, recorded by the church clerks down through the years. Though the present building is only one year old, the church is 114 years old with much history to tell and continues on to the Glory of God.

*Ema Jean Poling, Church Clerk  
Holts Prairie Baptist Church  
March 30, 1987*



Holts Prairie Baptist Church in 1987

## THE METHODIST CHURCH OF PINCKNEYVILLE

The Methodist Church of Pinckneyville was not and is not a building on Mill and South streets; it is the people of past and present who use this building for their public worship of their Lord. People, believing and living the teachings of Jesus Christ, are the Methodist Church. We are living a history today to be studied and written tomorrow, and may the historian of tomorrow be able to accord to us a creditable page in the life of our Church.

Rev. James H. Dickens, the first Methodist circuit preacher in Perry County, of whom there is knowledge, remained in said county two years (1837-1838) laboring to build and establish Methodism. A small Methodist Society was organized in Pinckneyville by Rev. James H. Dickens and the Rev. John Van Cleve, Presiding Elder. The first meetings of the Society were held in the home of Dr. H. B. Jones, and afterwards for a time, in the court house. From the court house, the services were removed to the school house, and thence to a public meeting house known as the Temperance Hall, which they used as a place of worship for a number of years, as did other denominations.

The first Methodist church was built in the year 1857 under the ministry of Rev. G. B. Cullom. It was a plain frame building, 30 X 40 feet in size. This church served as a place of worship for about 25 years. In the year 1881, under the supervision of Rev. W. H. Tyner, work was begun on the construction of a new church. Owing to a severe drought in that year, the church building was not completed until May 21, 1882. This church was of brick construction, located at the northeast corner of Mill and South Streets, and facing South. The first parsonage was built in 1907 East of the Church. It was used from 1900 until 1935.

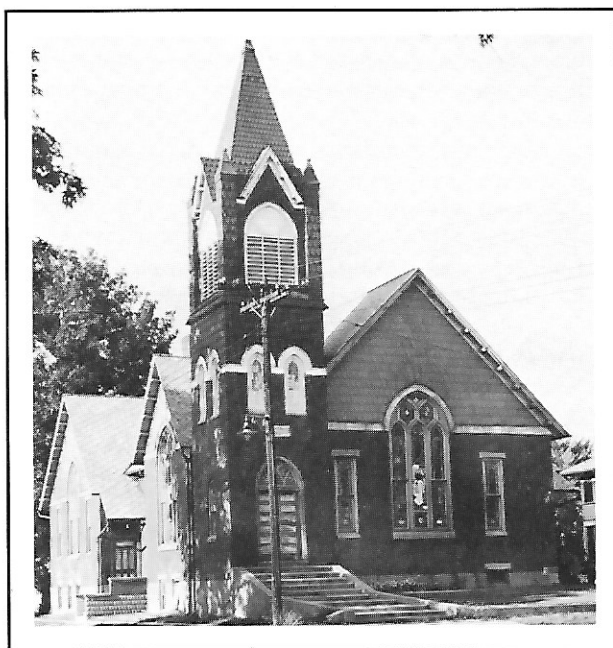
In 1907 under the pastorate of Rev. John H. Davis, one of the greatest revivals in the history of the church was held, at which time there were a great many conversions and admissions to the church. The old church became wholly inadequate, and it was found necessary to erect a new place of worship. On July 10, 1907, the work of tearing down the old building began and, as soon as the old building was razed, the construction of the new building began under the supervision of W. W. Winn, con-

tractor. The cornerstone of the new church was laid on the 17th day of October 1907 and the first meeting in the new church was a meeting of the Epworth League held in the basement on January 7th, 1908 under the leadership of Mrs. William O. Edwards.

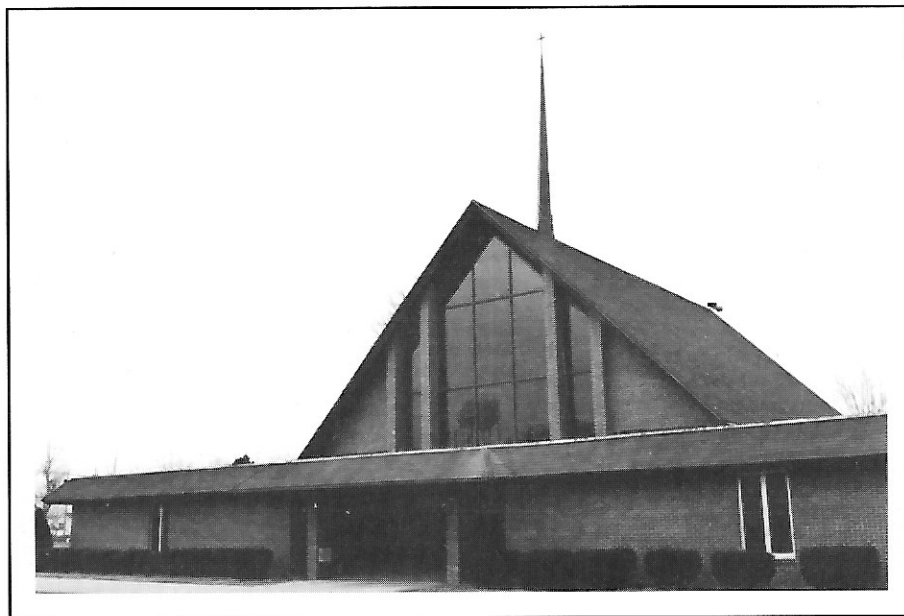
Under the ministry of Rev. Leroy Pittman, the Congregation realized the need for a new Church and Parsonage. The building program officially began on September 25, 1965 and was completed in the Spring of 1970. The result of this program was our present Church and Parsonage.

The year of 1984 was a year-long celebration of the bi-centennial of Methodism. Many events were held to commemorate our church heritage.

In 1986, the church bought the property on it's east border for parking and future expansion purposes.



The old Methodist Church of Pinckneyville



The present Methodist Church of Pinckneyville

## NINE MILE BAPTIST CHURCH

The Nine Mile Baptist Church, the Mother of Churches in Perry County, was founded in 1829 and was called the Nine Mile Prairie Church (that being the name of the Post Office located in DuQuoin). Eight charter members gathered in a two-room log cabin. These members were Abner and Sarah Keith, Van S. and Rachel Teague, Peter and Francis Hagler, Leonard Lipe, and Francis Jones. The log cabin was owned by Peter Hagler, who led the services for some time. Settlers walked up to fifteen miles to attend monthly services. In 1835, a new log cabin was erected on the present site where the white frame church now stands.

During Peter Hagler's years as an itinerant preacher, he was instrumental in the organization of the Concord, Galum, Pinckneyville, Paradise Prairie, Tamaroa, Colona, Holt's Prairie, Dutch Ridge and Carbondale Churches. In 1845, seven churches under Rev. Hagler's leadership formed the Nine Mile Baptist Association. These churches were Nine Mile, Concord, Kincaid, Pleasant Ridge, Swanwick Creek, Galum, and Pleasant. Others joined the association as years passed. Today, the Nine Mile Baptist Association consists of 45 churches in four counties. Nine Miles Baptist Church had 102 members when the Association was formed.

Fire had destroyed church records prior to 1845, making information rather vague. About 1863, the church built it's first frame building at a cost of \$1200. Rev. Hagler ministered at Nine Mile until 1873, about 43 years off and on.

In 1929, Nine Mile celebrated it's 100th anniversary which was attended by 1500 people who arrived in 500 autos, 3 buggies, and one wagon. The oldest member who attended was Deacon A. M. Revelle, 95 yrs. old.

Nine Mile's oldest living member is Mrs. Georgie Short, who is 93 years old. Other current members who can recall the "old days", back to the 30's and 40's, at Nine Mile are John and Lois Farthing, Orville and Beulah Marlow, Irene Eaton, Bud Mills, Lyle and Gladys Stanley, Ward and Gloria Zimmer, Vergie Watts, and Albert Marlow.

On Wednesday, May 25th, 1932, a bad storm blew a large tree onto the church building, causing major damage. The building was repaired and a dedication service was held in July. In 1959, the Truax Traer Coal Company purchased the surrounding grounds around the church, which left it isolated. Therefore, the membership was moved to a new church building 3 miles north to route 154. Then, in 1966 the church added an educational building.

In 1985, a cemetery trust fund and committee was organized to care for the Nine Mile Cemetery, which is one of the oldest in Perry County. Rev. Peter Hagler, the Baptist Pioneer, is buried there as is Leonard Lipe, a former charter member and revolutionary war veteran.

The history of Nine Mile Baptist Church is a history of people. There have been 37 pastors and many important lay leaders and families that have had a great impact upon Baptist life in Illinois and to the uttermost parts of the earth. The present pastor, Rev. Jimmy Duncan, continues to carry on the fundamental preaching of God's Word as the members of this great country church practice the spirit of benevolence through their service to the Lord.



The old white frame church built in 1863.



The present Nine Mile Church built in 1959.



## THE OLD DU QUOIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Christian evangelism work in the Old DuQuoin community began with church meetings held in the Old DuQuoin School House about 1929. Members of various other churches in the area joined with those who attended the school house services and held a series of revival meetings. Eventually, a tent revival held on the grounds of the former Orphan's Home part of the Seminary Hill property, during the Summer of 1932, set the foundation for forming the Old DuQuoin Baptist Church.

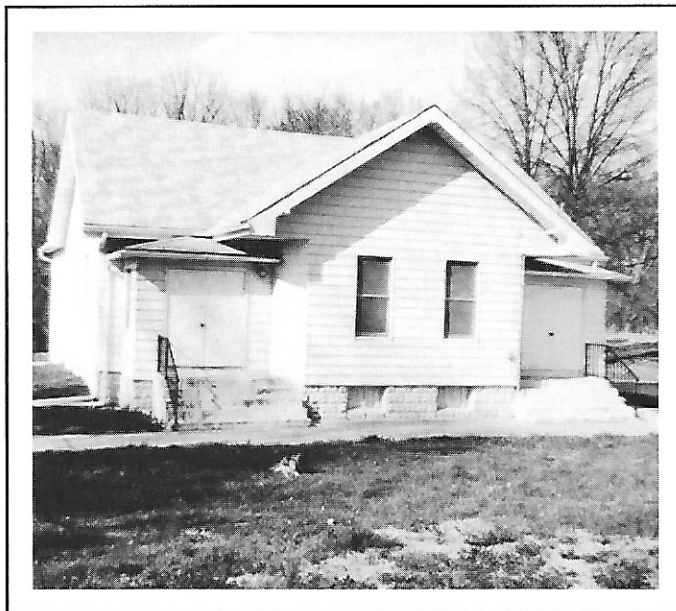
Located on Route 14, two miles east of Route 51, this church was organized on July 27, 1932. There were 33 charter members; and on July 31, eleven more were added by baptism. The building was completed that same year. The Rev. Herman Emiling became the first pastor; deacons were Harrison Furlow, James Slover, Sr. and Ray Lemmons; trustees were Henry Beard, Arthur Vancil and Ralph McQuaide. Also serving as officers were Ethel Furlow, Treasurer; Eugene Kaufman, Clerk; and Henry Beard, Sunday School Superintendent. The church voted on September 3, 1932 to become a member of the Nine Mile Association. It is a member of the Illinois Baptist State Association, Southern Baptist Convention.

There have been additions and a basement constructed since the time of the original building. A parsonage also was erected just west of the church. Approximately 13½ acres of property belongs to the church. In November 1975 the attractive church sign was placed in front of the building, a memorial to Mrs. Millie Woolsey.

Many pastors have served this church over the years. Although there has been a variety of mission actions since its con-

stitution, the present W.M.U. organization began in October, 1976.

For a short time many years ago the church services were held only every-other-week; however, the Old DuQuoin Baptist Church has held full-time services for the past several years. The present pastor is the Rev. Louis Kunz.



The Old Du Quoin Baptist Church

## THE SUNFIELD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Methodist Church in Sunfield was organized in 1871 and was located where the Sunfield Baptist Church now stands west of US. Rt. 51. This was a one room building erected on land given to the church by Mr. Marion Teague. The Methodist minister from Du Quoin came every Sunday to hold services. There came a time when this was not possible so services were discontinued for a while.

In the early 1900s the building was moved to ground given the church and in the spring of 1907 the property was purchased on which the church now stands. The ground was bought from Thomas Fleming and the trustees signing the deed were, Joseph Bailey, James Saunders, and Thomas Yates. The Church was dedicated on Sept. 1, 1907 by Rev. Nathaniel Crow, Supt. of the Vandalia District. Rev. Ressho Robertson was pastor at that time.

In February of 1937 the original building burned. It was replaced on the same site and with a structure as near like the original as possible. The most interesting part of the building plans were made in St. Louis where the building committee had gone in search of used lumber. The lumber they found was from an old brewery and beer vats were used as material for sheathing for the church building.

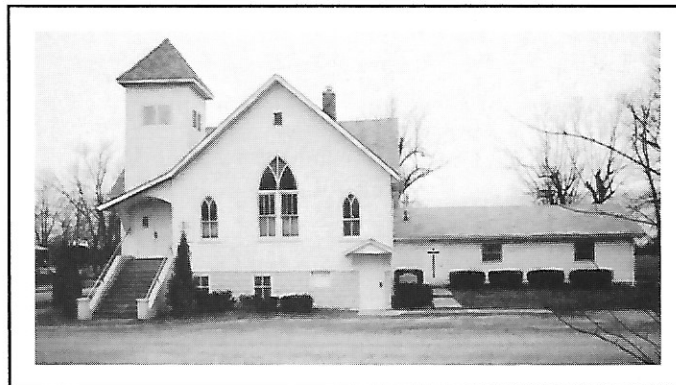
Some hardwood used as flooring had been used in a bowling alley. The total cost of the building was \$5000.00. Mr. Sam Harris, a local carpenter, directed the volunteer labor and the church was built. It was dedicated on Aug. 29, 1937. Rev. R. Robertson and other former pastors were present.

In 1977 the members of the Sunfield United Methodist Church met and decided it was time for them to maintain and

support a full time charge. More plans were made and on April 2, 1978 ground was broken for a parsonage on the site of the old Sunfield School. The building was completed and dedicated in 1978, Rev. Stephen Phillips was the first pastor to live in the parsonage. It has provided a home for the pastor and their families since that time.

The church is one of three Methodist churches in Perry County and serves its community well.

Pastors who have served are listed by last name, McCammon, Robertson, Modlin, Kinnison, Atchison, Wheatly, Hall, Harms, Hight, Sheridan, J. W. A. Kinnison, McPherson, Carroll, Richardson, Shoaff, Schaeffer, Switzer, Gulley, Burkey, Hill, Fisher, Felts, Myers, Pierce, Clark, Phillips, Newbury and the present pastor Rev. K. Bruce Rushing.



The Sunfield United Methodist Church

## SACRED HEART CHURCH

In all probability, the first Catholics in the Du Quoin area were the Indian Chief Jean Baptiste Du Coigne and members of his tribe in the late 1700's. Before 1850, there had been very little religious organization in this territory. Catholics, many of whom had never seen a priest or attended a mass, met in homes.

The first mass in this area was said by Father Cusack of Vandalia in the home of Michael Bradley, using a marble topped chest as an altar. From 1857 to 1866, masses were said every three or four months in homes of Michael Bradley, Henry Horn, John Bradley, Dr. O'Reilly, Timothy Kelly, Mr. Day and Mr. Molter.

Father Cusack was followed by Fathers Lambert, Mark, Vahay and Walsch, saying mass every few months. The Sacred Heart of Jesus Congregation was formed in 1863.

Father Walshe and about 25 families decided to build a church. This first church was on the north side of Perry Street, between Hickory and Walnut Streets. Its estimated cost was \$4000.

During the construction, a storm blew down one wall on Christmas day, 1867, delaying completion of the church. The damage was repaired and the dedication was held on April 19, 1868. School was held in the rectory at the beginning, but the number of pupils increased so much that in November, 1872, it was announced that a school would be built on West Main Street. This school was used until the present school was built 20 years later.

Membership continued to grow and in 1871 a division was made establishing the Pinckneyville parish and Todd's Mill parish.

A 40 acre cemetery was acquired in 1874. In later years, 15 more acres were donated for the cemetery. The large memorial stone at the cemetery, dedicated to the memory of all war veterans, was erected by the Knights of Columbus.

Several years of drought caused a serious financial strain on the congregation. A generous member, Henry Horn, gave \$9,000 to put the parish back in good shape. A severe storm again struck, badly damaging the church. In November, 1870, land was purchased for a new church site on West Main Street. During the time while the new church was being constructed, services were held in a store building.

Members gave their time, labor and money, doing whatever they could to help build the new church. Trees were felled, logs were cut, hauled, sawed, shaped and sometimes polished.

On November 4, 1890, a farewell mass was said at the old

church. Part of the sermon was in Italian, part in Polish. The Pontifical High Mass was said in English and German. A procession made its way to the new site about a mile away. The church they had created has frequently been called "the Cathedral of Southern Illinois."

Large stoves heated the church, the altars were made of highly polished wood; and the pews had been handmade by men of the parish.

The old school was torn down in 1892 and replaced by the present one. Some of the features of the new school were a kitchen, storage room and indoor toilet facilities. It was at this time that nuns came to instruct the children.

The three bells of the church were dedicated in March, 1908. They were baptized "Jesus", "Mary", and "Joseph", and honor the Holy Family each time they are rung. For about 29 years these bells were rung by Victor Ritter and his family.

Father Klocke died February 9, 1911, after 43 years of service to the parish. He was followed by Father C. J. Eschmann, who served Sacred Heart for 11 years. In 1919, Father Eschmann installed the marble communion rail, a new organ and a new altar. Father Eschmann died on May 25, 1937, at Waterloo.

Father C. N. Haffner was the next pastor. He built the rectory in 1924, and made an addition to the school in 1936 and built Haffner Hall in 1961. This hall has been the scene of many joyous occasions for the parish. The Rt. Rev. Msgr. Cyril Haffner died May 26, 1966, age 81 years.

Rev. Joseph Duehren came in August, 1966. Other priests who have served the parish are Father Angelo Lombardo, who came in July, 1974, and Father Steve Humphrey, our present priest, who arrived in 1985. Assistants who have been at Sacred Heart are Rev. Wilbert Iffert, Rev. Vito Lopardo, Rev. Lloyd Misho, Rev. Joseph Trapp, and Rev. John Ruggles.

Sacred Heart parish has given several vocations. Priests include Rev. John Bergmann, Rev. Clement Dirlir, Rev. James Genisio, Rev. Wilbert Iffert, Rev. Harry Jerome, Rev. Thomas Rozonowski, and Rev. Thomas Miller.

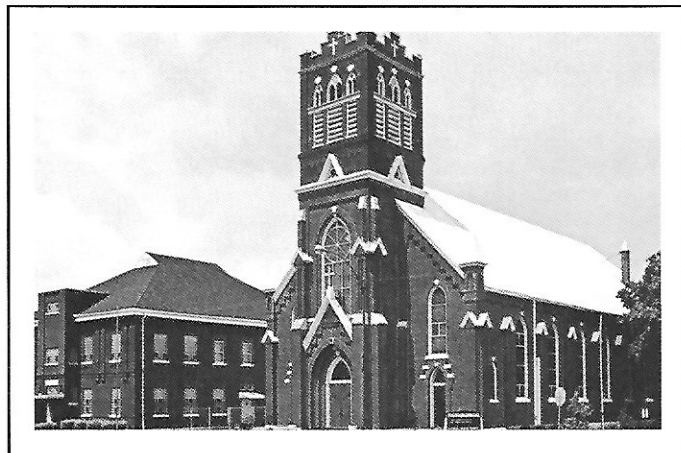
Among the Sisters from the area are Sister Mary Charles, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Knetzger; Sister M. Cajetan, daughter of George and Julia Steins; Sister M. Andrea, daughter of Joseph and Theresa Schubert; Sister Illuminata, formerly Josephine Schleper; Sister Ignatius, formerly Louisa Koerner; Clara Stein, daughter of Andrew and Catherine Stein; Emilia Louisa, daughter of Cosimo and Lucy Vettese; Mary Agnes Childs, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Childs and Edith Schneider, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Schneider.

The nucleus of the present Knights of Columbus began in 1905 when nine men went to Centralia to receive degrees. Nine more men received degrees the following year. In 1908, the Knights of Columbus Council #1298 was formed. In 1952, the K. of C. purchased the building west of the school and renovated it for their use.

Many women's organizations have served the parish, among them are the National Council of Catholic Women, Catholic Daughters of America, the Altar Society, and the Sewing Circle. For the young people there has been the Catholic Youth Organization.

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Congregation is now 123 years old. Only God knows the rest of the history of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Congregation.

A more complete history of Sacred Heart Church and its congregation is available from the Perry County Historical Society.  
*By Inez Eisenhauer*



Sacred Heart Church And School

# SMITH MEMORIAL AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH

Born out of racism, the invisible slave church of the antebellum South was the precursor of the founding of the first black congregation during the Revolutionary War. There are few institutions that have played as great a role in the lives of Black Americans as the Church. Along with meeting the spiritual needs of its members, it is a major social, political, and economic force in the Black community. We must recognize that much of the church's strength lies in its members. In terms of membership, it continues to thrive. There are an estimated eighteen to twenty million Black Christians in the United States, one-fourth of whom are regular church-goers. In 1984, the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church was the fifth largest church with one million two hundred thousand members, two thousand churches, and some three thousand ministers in the United States. Smith Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church is only one of these churches which had its humble beginnings in Du Quoin, Illinois. Smith Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church is one of four churches in the Evansville District of the Indiana Conference of the 4th Episcopal District under the leadership of the Honorable Bishop J. Clinton Hoggard and Presiding Elder Rev. Anthony Anguish.

The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church at Du Quoin, Illinois was organized in 1879 by Rev. William Smith, the first pastor. After his death the church was named Smith Memorial A.M.E. Zion. The first trustees were: J. W. Hollands, Ottawa Scott, Thomas Jackson, Albert Covington, and John Kirkpatrick. London Simmins helped in the organizing and purchasing of the land for the church site.

The building was destroyed by a tornado around 1908, while Rev. O. H. Banks was pastor. The building was repaired and was on jacks when it was blown down. At that time, the Board of Education was planning a new brick building. The trustees bought one of the buildings and had it moved on the church lot. This building was used until Rev. Frank W. Alstork came to pastor in 1923; when the present building at Park and Maple Streets was erected. Rev. Alstork later became a Bishop in Zion. The Smith Memorial A.M.E. Zion church celebrated its 100th anniversary in 1982. During that time the parsonage was purchased in 1947, and restoration of the building was done.

The Berkley family along with the Scotts, Jacksons, Kirkpatricks, Sadberrys, Johnsons, Dabners, Farguhars, Lanums, Peters, Partees, Cross', Shereels, Smiths, Bledsoes, Simmons, Brown's, Banks, Spillers, Jones are among the many families who through the years, with God's help, have continued the life of Smith Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church.

Several Bishops have served here including: G. L. Blackwell, Wm. J. Walls, C. C. Allegne, Stephen Gillspotwood, Charles Eubanks Tucker, and our present Bishop, J. Clinton Hoggard. During the years Presiding Elders have been: Rev. Carr, Chambers, Chapman, R. W. Davis, G. W. Register, W. Ray Smith, J. H. Lee, Antel, Dr. L. B. Pierce, H. R. Kersey, and our present

Presiding Elder, Rev. Anthony Anguish. Some of the pastors who have served here are: Rev. Wakefield, Borner, Browder, Michelle, Jackson, Payne, Slayter, Ward, Slaughter, Rice, Eley, Knight, Carr, O. H. Banks, Williams, Kernon, Hendrix, I. A. Moore, Rufus Jones, Carson, McLeod, Smith, C. M. Bledsoe, E. Horace Brown, Deberry, Rasberry, Martin, Wade, Prince, Spearman, Roseborough, McMillen, K. Player, Woodruff, Ovalton, Higgs, Hill, White, and our present Pastor, Rev. Ike Reed. Present Church Officers are: Dr. F. Banks, Jr., E. Sadberry, F. Worthington, R. Beckley, P. Beckley, N. Brown, and B. Reed.

In essence the A.M.E. Zion Church is a moving, real life drama of people totally involved for nearly two centuries for the freedom of Mankind in effort to make Christianity a reality. *History composed by Dr. Freddie Banks, Jr. And Ms. Lucille Smith.*





# ST. BRUNO'S CATHOLIC CHURCH OF PINCKNEYVILLE

St. Bruno's Parish began with its earliest settlers arriving about 1870. They were mostly immigrants from Bavaria and Baden, Germany.

Prior to 1871, St. Bruno's parish was a mission of Du Quoin served by Rev. Charles Klocke. In that year the territory was divided into three districts; Du Quoin, Pinckneyville and Todds Mill.

St. Bruno's has had 10 Pastors:

Rev. Charles Klocke of Du Quoin	1872-1878
Rev. L. Riesden (first resident pastor)	1878-1879
Rev. Charles Klocke	1879-1880
Rev. Henry Ader	1880-1883
Rev. William Krug	1883-1884
Rev. Joseph Schneider	1884-1917
Rev. Charles Strumpen	1917-1923
Rev. Joseph A. Munier	1923-1956
Rev. James Calhoun (assistant)	1955-1956
Rev. James McCormick	1956-1963
Rev. Glennon Sims	1963-1973
Rev. Timothy Foley	1973-1987
Rev. Wojcik	1987-Present

The first Church, a brick structure, was erected in 1872. The first High Mass was sung by the Rev. Charles Klocke on the Feast of the Blessed Trinity. In 1950 a new Church was dedicated by the Most Rev. Albert R. Zuroweste, Bishop of Belleville.

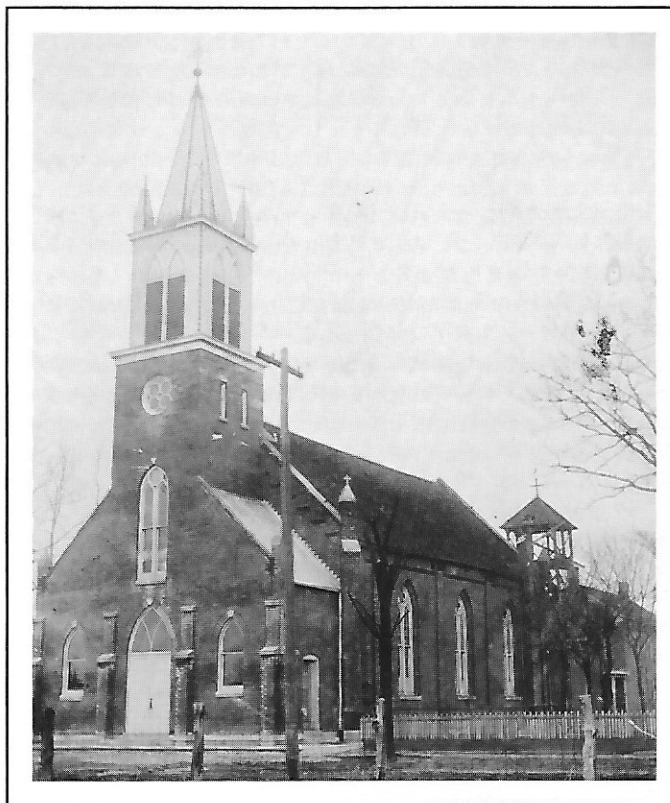
The original rectory was a one-story frame building. It was replaced in 1892 by a two-story brick building which was used until the present rectory was completed in 1965.

St. Bruno's Parish has been fortunate to have had a school for its children almost from the beginning. The first school, built in 1887, had one classroom for 60 students. The nuns lived on the second floor. A two-room school was built in 1891. In 1940 it was moved across Gordon Street and added to the Lehman house, making a three-room school for over 100 students. Now the students have a two-story building dedicated in 1956. It has office facilities and six classrooms on the main floor and one classroom, a library and a cafeteria in the basement. The nuns are housed in a two-story convent attached to the school.

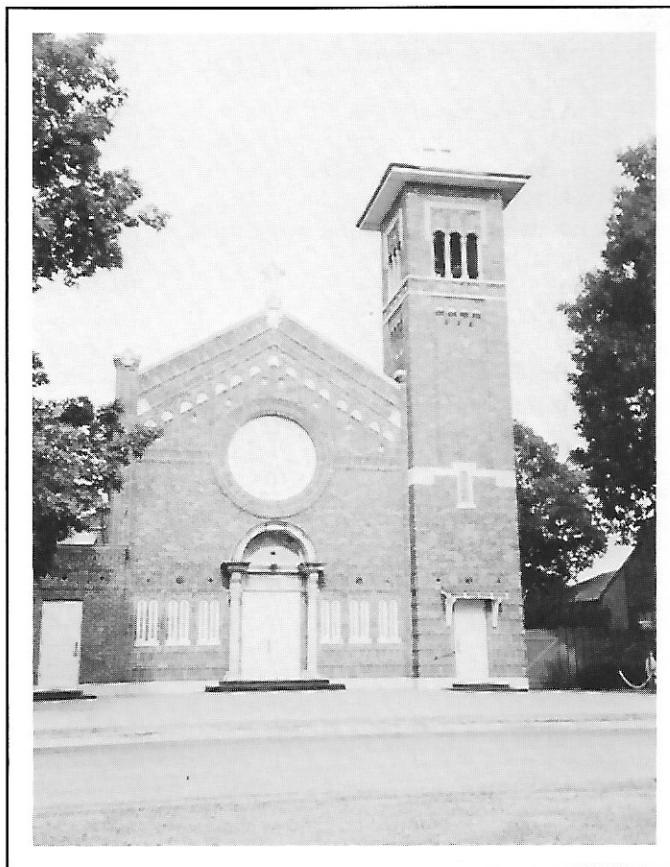
The Parish Center, constructed in 1966, includes a gymnasium used for physical education and a lounge for many activities. St. Bruno's have had several outstanding basketball players who have gone on to play for Pinckneyville High School. Several of the volleyball players have also played for the High School team.

The Adorers of the Blood of Christ Nuns have served St. Bruno's Parish since 1887. Prior to that time, Father Schneider had taught school in his living room from 1884-1887.

The parish has a cemetery of six acres about one mile from the Church on Route 154 West. This property was purchased in 1873. Before that time, the parishioners were buried in the city cemetery.



Old Church 1872-1950



New church dedicated 1950

"Good instruction is better  
than riches"

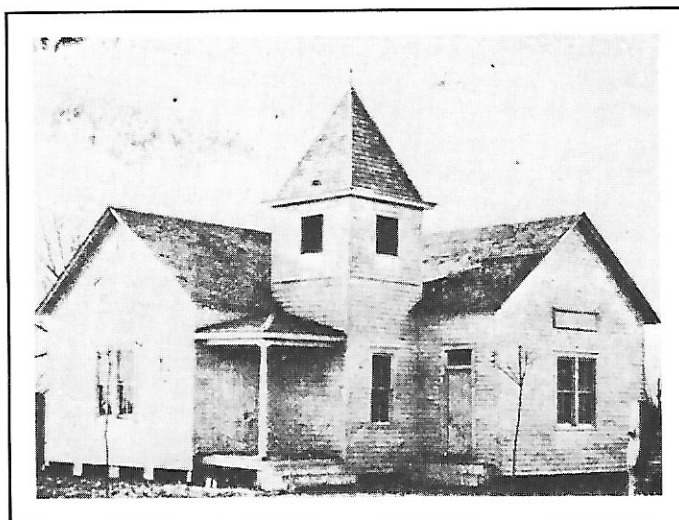
## ST. PAUL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST PINCKNEYVILLE, ILLINOIS

St. Paul United Church of Christ had its earliest beginnings about 1865 when some German immigrants began coming to this community and building homes. These early settlers were of German Lutheran, Evangelical, Methodist, and Reformed Church backgrounds; their main concern at this time was to have a "German Church."

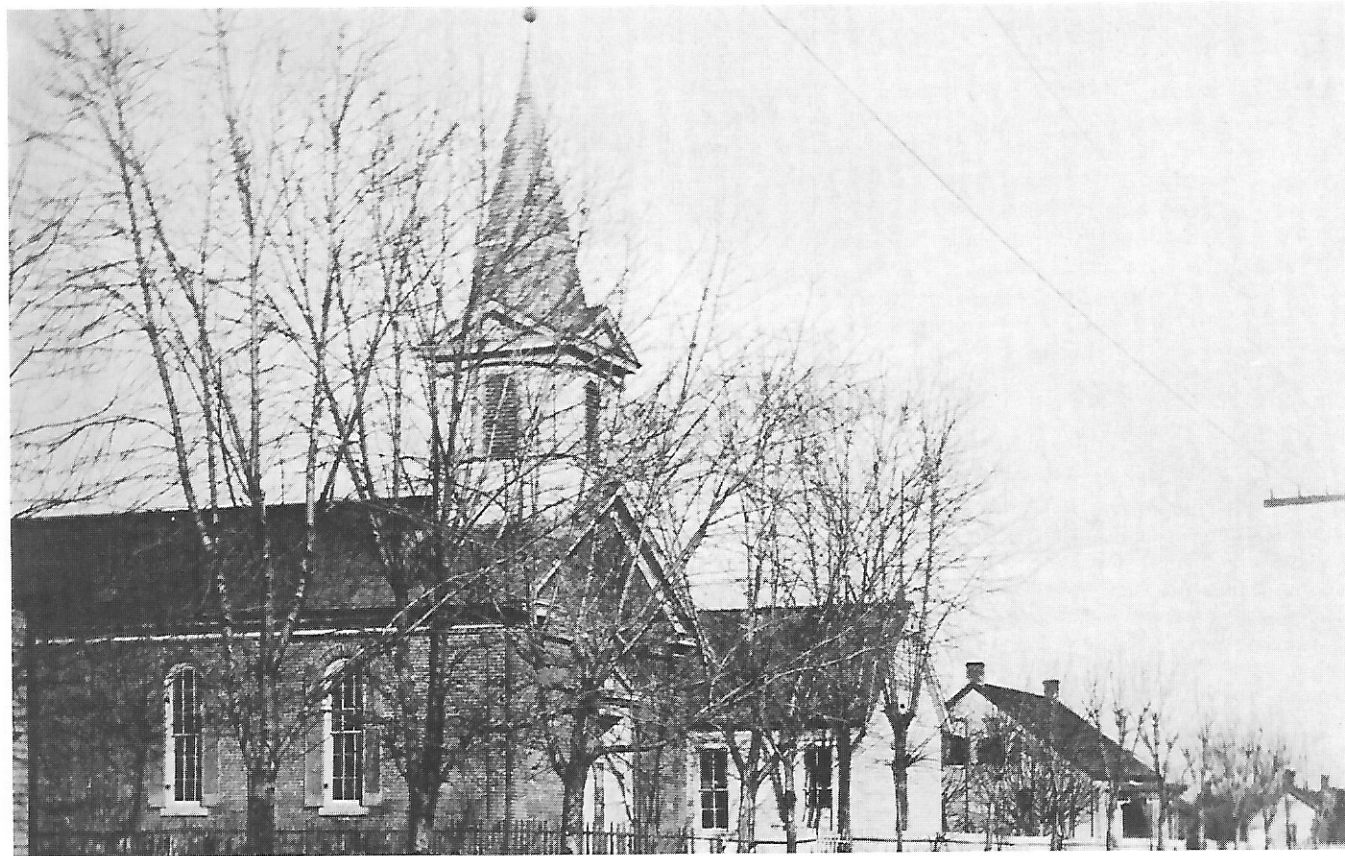
At first, church services were held in various homes by visiting ministers. In 1868 efforts were begun to raise funds to build a church. In 1870, a small brick church was built at the site of the present church at 205 E. Jackson Street. According to the records found in the Perry County Recorder's office, the congregation was first known as "German Evangelical (that is United Lutheran and Reformed) St. Paul's church (formerly known as the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Pinckneyville, Perry County." The Certificate of Incorporation of German Evangelical St. Paul's Church does not appear in the record of this county. The St. Paul United Church of Christ had its beginning in the year 1870 as the Evangelical Church and was a member of the Evangelical Synod of North America. The Evangelical constitution was adopted in 1873 and the church formally organized with 12 charter members: Louis Yung, George Huth, Jacob Kunz, Peter Loos, Sr., Peter Yung, John Hepp, Charley Hoffman, Balthasar Gerstenschlager, Jacob Loos, Henry Driemeyer, John Valentine and John Loos. Many of the sur-names listed as charter members are still carried on the church records by their descendants.

In 1872, a parsonage was built, one room of which was used as a German Parochial school. During the years 1898-1901, the first pipe organ was installed. During the years 1910-1912

a new parsonage and a new church building were built and dedicated. With continued growth more class room space was needed and the old parsonage was less than satisfactory. The present church building was built in 1912, was later remodeled at which time the chancel area was moved from the east to the north wall. The building was "brick-faced" in 1965 to match the educational unit which was built in 1964. The church bell which rings every Sunday was received from the Pinckneyville Fire Department.



White Walnut Chapel 1911-1935



Our church, school and parsonage



Because of poor roads and the need to serve people in the rural area east of Pinckneyville, the "White Walnut Chapel" was built in 1911 and was served by the pastors of St. Paul Church. In 1935 with improved roads and methods of transportation, the people decided to come to Pinckneyville to worship. The bell which called the members to worship at White Walnut on Sunday afternoons was sent to Back Bay Mission Church in Mississippi.

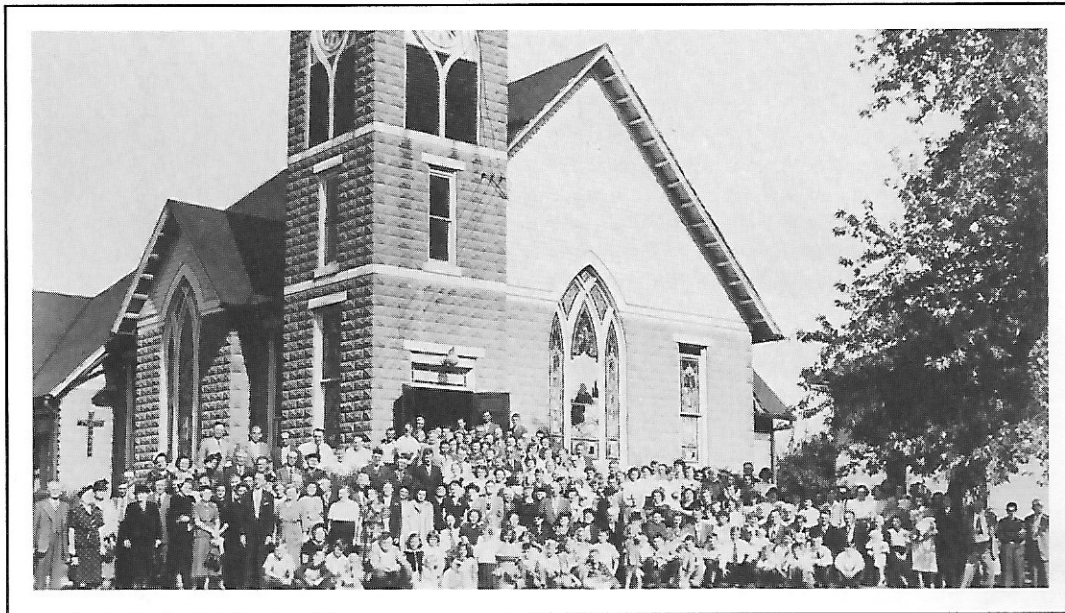
In 1945, the one-manual pipe organ was rebuilt into a new Wick's two-manual organ with seven sets of pipes; several more sets have been added since that date. Mrs. Frances Overton served as our organist for several years even though she was totally blind. Other organists were Charles Zahn, Catherine Ritter, Isabelle Roethe, Betty Valentine, Rosemary Greer, Hazel Boettcher, LaVerne Klosterman, Roger Engelhardt, Margaret Timpner, and Amy Martin.

Since its beginning, the St. Paul Congregation has been served by 25 Resident pastors. The congregation has sent one of its sons into the ministry — Rev. Leonard Todd (1904-1982). Several of the daughters have married ministers, and many of its daughters have entered the nursing profession.

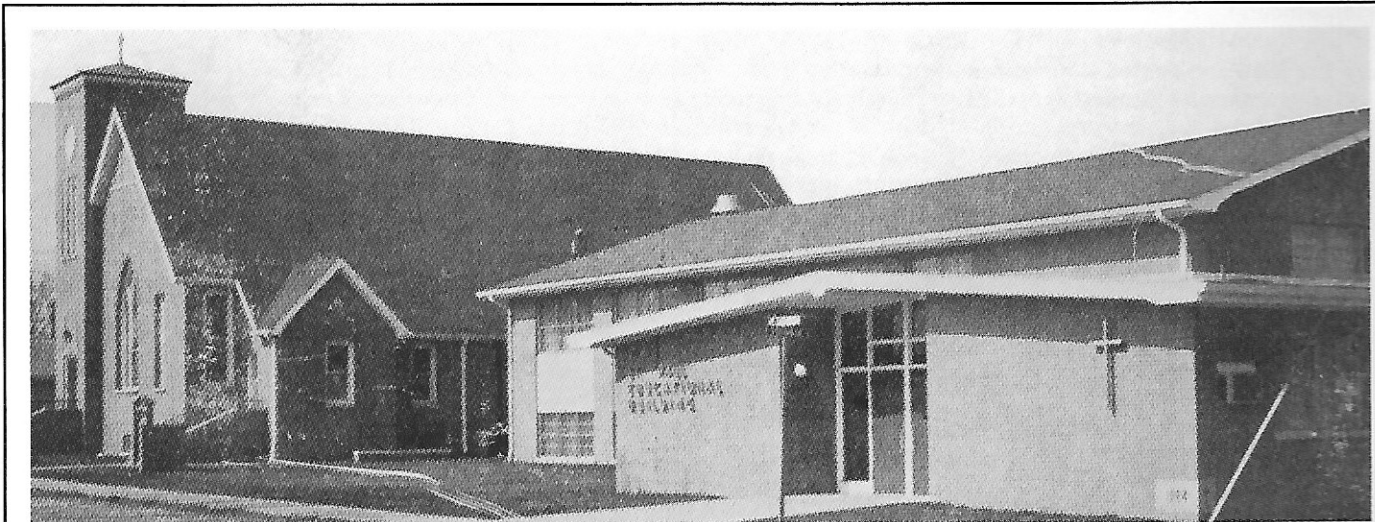
The St. Paul Congregation continues to teach and proclaim

the love of God in Jesus the Christ through Sunday School, Worship services, and encourages people to love and serve one another in His name.

Pastors who have served St. Paul Congregation since its origin are as follows: Rev. George Goeringer - 1870 (Missouri Lutheran), Rev. John Maul - 1870 (part time), Evangelical Pastors: Rev. Albert Zeller - 1870-1874, Rev. F. Kauffman - 1874-1876, (helped organize St. Lohn UCC, DuQuoin) Rev. John Klick - 1876-1882, Rev. Wilhelm Gaertner - 1882-1884, Rev. George Maul - 1884-1885, Rev. H. Siegfried - 1885-1886, Rev. C. Kramer - 1886-1890 (helped organize St. Marks UCC, DuBois), Rev. C. Lengtat - 1891-1892, Rev. F. J. Buschmann - 1893-1898, Rev. A. Grabowski - 1898-1901, Rev. Chr. Stech - 1901-1903, Rev. Daniel Buchmueller - 1903-1906, Rev. August Bender - 1906-1909, Rev. F. H. Mittendorf - 1909-1913, Rev. O. W. Heggemeyer - 1913-1917, Rev. E. C. Brink - 1917-1920, Rev. Adolph Friz - 1920-1927, Rev. Arthur E. Reiss - 1928-1932, Rev. Martin P. Schroedel - 1932-1951, Rev. Eugene T. Jensen - 1952-1954, Rev. Harold A. Schulz - 1954-1960, Rev. George J. Boettcher - 1960-1968, Rev. Keith C. Klosterman - 1968



Our second church



The church and education building as of 1987



# ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

The early settlers of Du Quoin, who were of German descent, felt it significant that they establish a church that was in the likeness of their church in Germany. Rev. F. Kauffman, of Pinckneyville, helped organize a church that would meet the spiritual needs of these families.

January 16, 1876, fourteen charter members, Conrad Kunkel, Julius Lewedag, Chris Hummel, Leo Kraus, Jacob Sutter, John Heberer, George Croessmann, August Eichorn, Fred Ellis, Charles Seibert, H. Heinke, A. Berger, Charles Weinberg and Mr. Höefle, officially organized a congregation. They chose the name St. Johannes Evangelischen Kirche. The first meetings were held in the Du Quoin Public School, located on the northeast corner of North Hickory and Reed streets, and in homes of members. They called their first pastor, J. Julius Kramer, of St. Joseph, Missouri, in May 1876; then services were moved to the Christian Church.

In August 1876, the decision was made to construct a church building at the present location, 20 South Hickory Street, Du Quoin, Illinois. Mr. Conrad Kunkle, a charter member, was one who took Rev. Kramer around to solicit subscriptions for the new church. D. T. DeLano was paid \$10.00 for the drawing. This evidently was the architectural drawing. John Chapman was the contractor for the new church which was constructed at a total cost of \$1,939.90 (including building, furnishings and miscellaneous items) with a debt of \$900.00. The church was dedicated January 7, 1877.

A bell for the first church was purchased by the Frauen Verein (Women's Guild) in 1892 at a cost of \$38.35. This bell was mounted on a low platform on the south side of the front entrance.

The church shared its first eight pastors with the Evangelical St. Mark's Church in DuBois. Most of the first pastors, including Rev. Weltge, also served the Sutter Church which was located in the country about ten miles southwest of Du Quoin. Many of the ministers rode horseback or drove a horse and buggy to get to the little country church. Pastors serving these churches were H. J. Kramer, H. Mohr, H. Siegfried, H. Walz, P. Brückner, Karl Friebe, William Weltge and John Mauthe. Pastors serving the church since 1898 were Rev. Karl Friebe, Rev. William B. Weltge, Rev. John Mauthe, Rev. Virgil Kuhlenschmidt and Rev. Fred Fieker.

The offering plate used in the first church was called a "Klingelbeutel". A velvet cloth, with a bell attached to the tassel, was fastened to a long pole. The ushers stood in the aisle, held the pole and passed it along the pews.

Extensive interior renovation of the first church building took place in 1912.

Services were held in the native German language until 1920. Because of the political climate (W.W. I), the German language came under scrutiny and was discouraged at that time. By 1923 all services were in English.

At the February 20, 1927 Annual Meeting, it was accepted that the name of the church be officially changed from St. John's Evangelical Church to First Evangelical Church. This change came about because out-of-town people thought the St. John's Evangelical Church was a church in the Village of St. John's, about one mile north of Du Quoin.

In 1976, when members celebrated the One Hundredth Anniversary of the Church, they officially changed the name to St. John's United Church of Christ.

Early in 1929 the decision was made to plan for a new church building, the cost not to exceed \$35,000.00. During the razing

of the old and building of the new, the congregation met regularly for Sunday School and worship services at the West Park School. In the late Fall of 1929 the present church sanctuary was dedicated.

The Evangelical Church was a church that recognized all religious bodies as related in Christ. It was in this spirit of ecumenicity they made the decision to unite with the Reformed Church of America in 1934. In the summer of 1957 they united with the Congregational Church, which came from an entirely different historical background, thus forming the United Church of Christ.

A former member, Mr. George E. Kaufmann of East St. Louis, who passed away in August 1957, remembered his childhood church with a large bequest. On August 8, 1960, the congregation approved a contract for erection of a new educational building and alterations to the sanctuary. This construction was under the administration of Rev. V. Kuhlenschmidt and was dedicated September 17, 1961.

In 1970, a bequest was received from the Lena Rhodes estate which enabled the installation of air conditioning in her memory.

A new personage constructed across the street from the church was dedicated in 1971.

In 1984 a legacy was received from the estate of Owen and Bertha Norris. A living memorial trust was established in their memory, which enabled St. John's Church to launch out on a new ministry for young people who are seeking to further their education.

In 1976 a special memorial was established by Mrs. Margaret Adams in memory of her sister, Mrs. Minnie Bruder, toward rebuilding and enlarging of the original pipe organ installed in 1929. Over the years many more memorials to members of St. John's congregation were contributed, adding to this fund. In 1987 the refurbished organ was dedicated in memorial to those members.

Statistics show that this congregation has grown from nineteen families in 1876 to approximately two hundred fifty families in 1987. Thus building on the heritage and faithfulness of our founding fathers and continuing in the hope that we may recapture that same spirit for the generations to come.



St. John's United Church of Christ today

## TAMAROA CHRISTIAN CHURCH

The Tamaroa Christian Church had its beginnings in January of 1902 with a series of preaching meetings held first in the I.O.O.F. hall and later moved to the larger Lincoln Hall in Tamaroa. R. H. Robertson, minister at Du Quoin came and conducted these and later held worship services at 2:30 for the Tamaroa congregation. Out of these meetings, 37 people, immersed into Christ, were organized as charter members of a congregation dedicated to the principles of the restoration movement desiring to be Christians only. The first elders chosen were Dr. T. A. Lovelady and J. N. Lisenby. The first deacons chosen by the congregation were William Jones and Allen Burns. Mrs. J. N. Lisenby was chosen to serve as clerk and treasurer. A lot was purchased for \$200 and construction began on a new brick building, which was dedicated on May 17, 1903. The new building cost \$4100. \$3200 of this amount was raised by subscription with individuals and churches giving their gifts over a period of time. Among the neighboring Christian Church congregations giving gifts were: Du Quoin, Carbondale, Elkhville, and Mt. Vernon.

The congregation struggled during the post World War I years to maintain a minister and was reorganized in 1930. In the early 1950's a concrete front porch was added, a basement dug beneath the building to permit a coal furnace, and the baptistry was rebuilt. In 1974, the interior of the building was remodeled with the addition of a new pulpit, Communion table, as well as pews and carpeting.

Among the elders of the congregation have been: John Lisenby, Ray Lisenby, Albert Wilks, Noah Carter, Sam Ferguson, Bethel Frederick, Charles Jay, Raymond Lee, Clay Reeves, Or-

ville Pyle, Andy Heiman, Vallie House, Olin Harris, Jesse Weisel and Arvon Kirkpatrick. Church records are incomplete on names of the early ministers. Longest ministries include: George Branum (1930-1947), Howard Rentfro (1949-1960), Max Jennings (1967-1971), Roger Obermeier (1971-1975), and the present minister Tom Armour (1984 to present).



The Tamaroa Christian Church

## TODDS MILL ST. MARY MAGDALEN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Joseph Todd, a native of Ireland who settled in Beaucoup township in 1839 donated the twenty acre tract of land that St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Church is located on. Fr. Walsh of Centralia occasionally said mass in the early 1860's at the home of Joseph Todd which was probably the first mass within the present boundaries.

The founding families were largely of Irish and German descent. Among them were Patrick Smith, Hugh Boyle, James Carr, James Kelly, Isidore Boul, John Faust, Peter Frein, Henry Kellerman and Adam Bathon.

In its beginning Todds Mill was in the Diocese of Alton. Bishop Damian Juncker of Alton came on June 19, 1868 and spent two days in the home of Joseph Todd. On this visit he administered the sacrament of Confirmation to six people and after talking to the parishoners decided they were of sufficient number to begin a parish. Placed under the patronage of St. Mary Magdalen, the parish was officially founded on June 19, 1868.

The first church, constructed of native oak and poplar at a cost of between \$900 and \$1,300 was completed by May 15, 1869. Todds Mill was a mission of St. Libory, St. Anthony Parish, Lively Grove and St. Bruno, Pinckneyville before the first resident pastor, Fr. Anton Stern was assigned on January 4, 1896.

By 1901 a one room school was built. Later that year the church was destroyed. By May 27, 1903 a new church was built and was blessed by Bishop John Janssen of Belleville.

Fr. John Grootens was the second resident pastor of Todds Mills. Fr. Grootens first major accomplishment was to build a new two room school and basement Parish Hall. He then made arrangements for the Franciscan Sisters of Our Lady of Perpet-

ual Help to take charge of the school. With the help of the parishoners a two story frame convent was erected to house the sisters.

Fr. Grootens was replaced as pastor by Fr. Joseph Budde in Oct. 1920. Succeeding pastors were Fr. John Jantzen, Fr. William Hoff, Fr. Henry Aydt, Fr. John Putas, Fr. Edward Borawski and Fr. Joseph Le Grand. Fr. Stephen Kraus was installed as pastor in 1944.

Fr. Donald Lenzini came to Todds Mill in June of 1960. While he was pastor a new rectory and combination school, convent and parish hall were built.

Other pastors were Fr. Misho who was responsible for building the present church in 1971, Fr. Leonard Goewert who was faced with the difficult task of closing the parish school due to a drop in student enrollment and religious vocations. The most recent pastors have been Msgr. Paulin Dobkowski and Fr. John Terepka with the current pastor being Msgr. Meinrad Dunn.

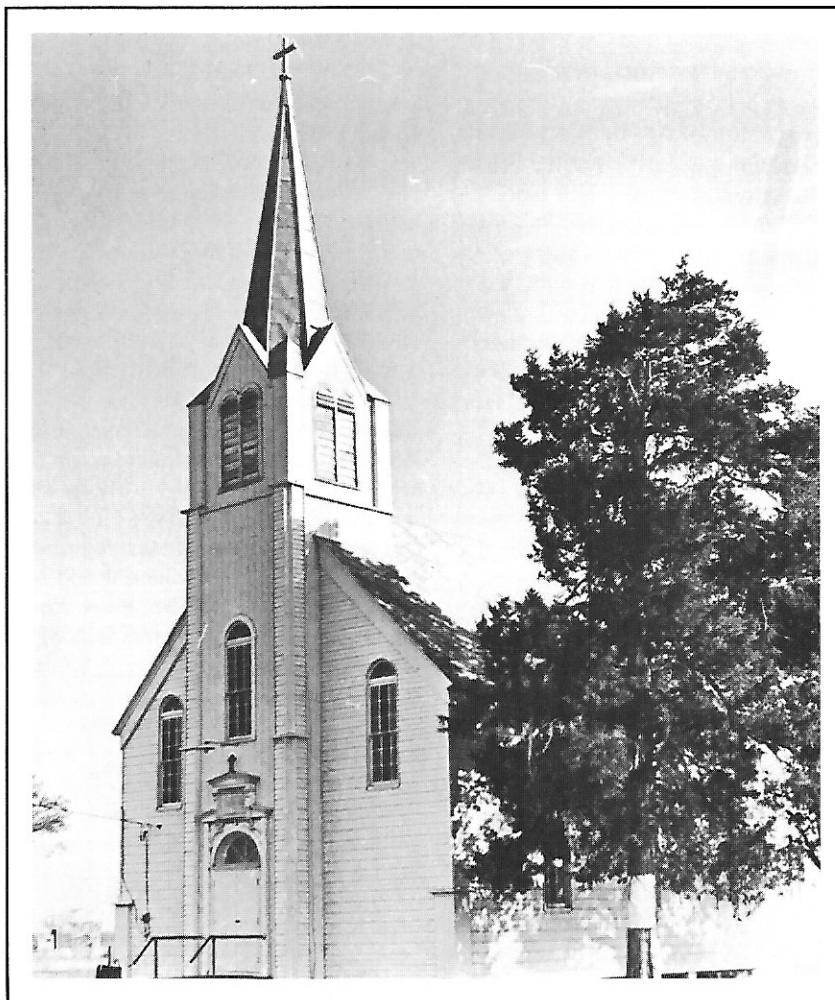


The present church at Todds Mill

## TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH OF CONANT

In the spring of 1897 members of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Lost Prairie, Ill. were divided on the question concerning the location of a new and larger church building. While the majority of the members agreed to build on the existing church property, a small group of families living near Conant wanted the building nearer their homes. Since they could not agree, on March 16, 1897, men identifying with the sentiments of the Conant families met to determine their course of action. These men decided to form a new congregation and build a church in the Conant vicinity. This important meeting marked the birth of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Conant, Ill. The same men who attended this meeting later became Trinity's charter members. They were: E. F. Brune, J. G. Beck, Jr., George Beck, Sr., Albert Kraft, Henry J. Wagner, John F. Brune, A. F. Beck, Herman Roethe, Martin Mayer, Jr., George F. Brune, Henry Schrader, Michael Mayer and Fred J. Beck. Work on building the church began immediately. Nearly all labor was donated. The lumber was sawed at one of the member's saw mills. Under the supervision of E. F. Brune, the altar, pulpit and pulpit cover of black walnut were handcarved with a pocket knife, smoothed with a file and sandpapered. The lamb, dove and Table of Ten Commandments were handmade as were the baptismal font and balcony. The Hinners & Albertson reed organ, cross, candelabra and upstairs pews were brought from Lost Prairie. The bell was purchased in Lenzburg, Ill., downstairs pews in Tennessee and the windows were hauled from Chester by horses and wagon. Total cost of structure was

\$1,200.00 not including many donations of material and labor. Trinity's records show the following milestones: May 1898 a parsonage was built adjacent to the church. November 1900 a small barn was built for pastor's horse. 1904 each member agreed to furnish thirty bushels of coal and two loads of wood annually for the church and parsonage. December 1918 they resolved to hold English services once a month. December 1941 after bombing of Pearl Harbor, German services were discontinued. From 1898 to 1943 a Christian Day School was provided in the annex of the church. After 1942 no pastors lived in the parsonage, as vacancy pastors and students supplies our needs. The small barn was disposed of in 1945 as it was no longer needed. The church was wired for electricity in 1950 leaving the kerosene and gas lights obsolete. The reed organ was converted from foot pump to electric blower and is still in use today and is well over a century old. February 16, 1954 the church was lifted from its foundation by a tornado. The members were able to restore and replace the church on a stronger foundation. Trinity sold the parsonage in 1965 which was moved to a new location just east of the church grove, and later completely destroyed by a tornado in May 1983 which miraculously missed the church, causing only minor damage. The church floors were varnished in 1971 and the original kerosene chandeliers restored for the 75th Anniversary occasion in 1972. A 90th Anniversary is being observed in 1987 as the church is surrounded by strip mine operations.



The Trinity Lutheran Church of Conant



# ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

## Jesus Christ the same yesterday . . .

The beginning of Lutheranism in Pinckneyville might be dated as early as the 1860s. Zion Lutheran Church was organized in 1885 under the leadership of Rev. A. J. Buenger, pastor of the Lutheran Church in Steelville. Because it was so small, the congregation had no pastor. Pastors from Steelville, Wine Hill, Belleville, Millstadt, and Lost Prairie conducted services only once a month, so little was accomplished. The members then purchased two lots at Mill and W. Chester Sts. from Joseph and Emma Murphy for \$95.00 on Nov. 7, 1885. Charter members were the Messrs. H. Pick, G. Lehmann, A. Lehmann, M. Krank, H. Schroeder, and J. Gertenschlaeger.

In the fall of 1886 the German Evangelical Lutheran Zion Church was dedicated to the service of God by Rev. Buenger. In the early years the congregation carried on all of its activities in the German language. Lost Prairie pastor Rev. Fisher served Zion and organized a Christian Day school in 1892. This was conducted in the church until 1901, when a school building was erected. The pastor was the teacher, and this continued until the school was closed in 1935. The Sunday School was organized in 1897 and continues today.

Under Rev. C. J. Broders (1908-1911), the first resident pastor, English was used exclusively in the Sunday School and one service a month was in English. By World War II English replaced German completely. The congregation became self-sufficient by December 1948 after being subsidized for 40 years.

In 1949 the building was inadequate, so under Rev. H. A. Herkamp, plans were made for a larger sanctuary. Ground was broken in October of 1949, the cornerstone laid Dec. 11, and the church dedicated on July 2, 1950.

Zion has been blessed by generous members and had received bequeaths from the Edward Hinke Estate and the Lillian Matthews Estate. Some changes to the present building include a brick veneer, rebuilt front steps, a steeple, new pews, carpet-

ing, and air conditioning, and a Rodgers 820 organ was dedicated in 1982.

Three parsonages have been part of Zion, with the present brick ranch adjacent to the church being dedicated Jan. 2, 1977.

Zion celebrated its centennial during 1985 and 1986 with three worship services and an organ concert.

Pastors who have served Zion:

C. H. Broders (1908-11), George Beiderwieden (1911-16), R. Deye (1917-23), A. H. Schreck (1924-25), E. H. Bohrer (1925-30), M. H. Dicke (1930-44), R. J. Rauber (1944-46), E. Hoelter (1946-48), H. A. Herkamp (1949-53), Duncan Stevenson (1953-60), Donald Lunick (1962-64), Carl Heidel (1965-70), Timothy Bickel (1971-75), Timothy Dorsch (1977-86), Ralph E. Otte (1986-).

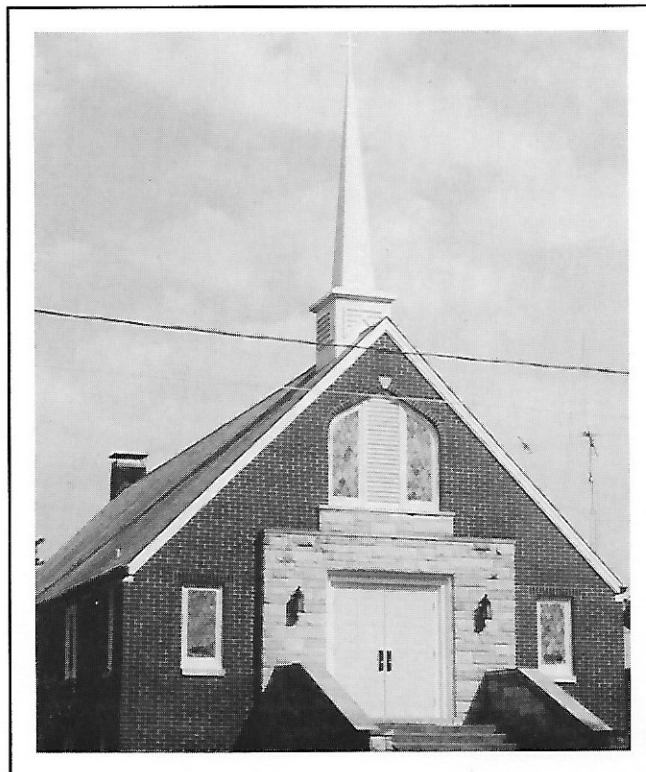
## And today . . .

The present membership of Zion is 171 baptized members and 147 communicant members. Sunday school meets at 8:45 A.M. and worship at 10:00 A.M. Adult Bible classes meet on Tuesday morning and Thursday evening. Organizations include two ladies groups, a junior youth group, and a couples club. The adult and children's choirs perform during worship on various Sundays. Holy Communion is celebrated on the second and fourth Sundays of each month.

## And forever.

The saving message of Jesus Christ dying and rising for all people of the world is taught and confessed at Zion. This glorious proclamation of salvation by grace through faith and the total, complete forgiveness of sins bought by our Lord's precious blood has been heard from Zion's pulpits for over 100 years and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit that message will continue until Jesus comes again to earth in all His glory.

*Soli Deo Gloria*



The Zion Lutheran Church

## SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH IN DU QUOIN

On June 14, 1879 a church was organized with 14 members. They met in homes until they purchased a building north of Keyes City Park. That building burned in 1900.

A new building was erected on Jefferson Street in 1901. From 1901 to 1903 the building was also used as a school. Then a new school building was built in old "Advent Town" (south of the Southtown Shopping Center) and it became both an elementary and secondary school. About 1915 the building was sold and a 2 room school building was built at VanBuren and Washington Streets. In 1923, they sold all of the city property and relocated at the South Wells Street cross roads where they then had a Junior Boarding Academy.

In 1941 they repurchased and remodeled the Jefferson Street church building, which burned in 1948, and they again located at the Wells Street area. In 1959 fire damaged the Jefferson Street building and in 1962 construction began on the present church building.

## THE PRIMITIVE (HARDSHELL) BAPTIST CHURCH

In the mid 1800s one group of the Harriss family living in the Denny Station area migrated to the Paradise Prairie area and were among the leadership of this church group.

Services began in 1848 and continued until the death of L. Potter Harriss, the last preacher, in 1959. A well-kept cemetery is still being used and the building remains, located in Sec 28 Twp 5-1.

Many years ago a history was prepared and copies are in the hands of some of the related persons. Harriss reunions were held regularly on the grounds, as well as church basket dinners, for many years.

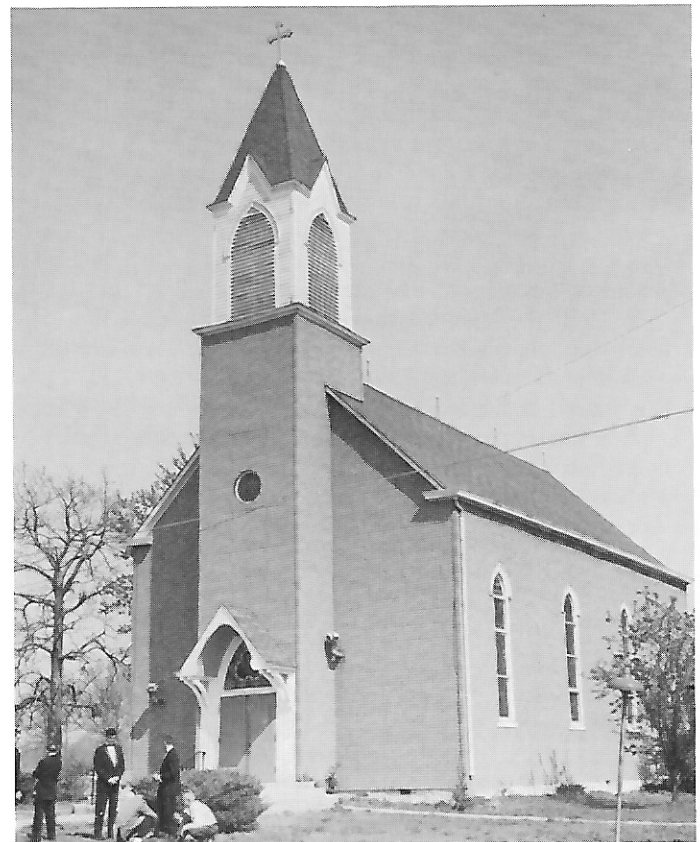
The first seats were benches without backs, men and women were separated, the minister was not ordained nor was he paid and there was no time limit on the services. Singing was a cappella (no instrument), the song books were words only and "Amazing Grace" was the song everyone knew well.



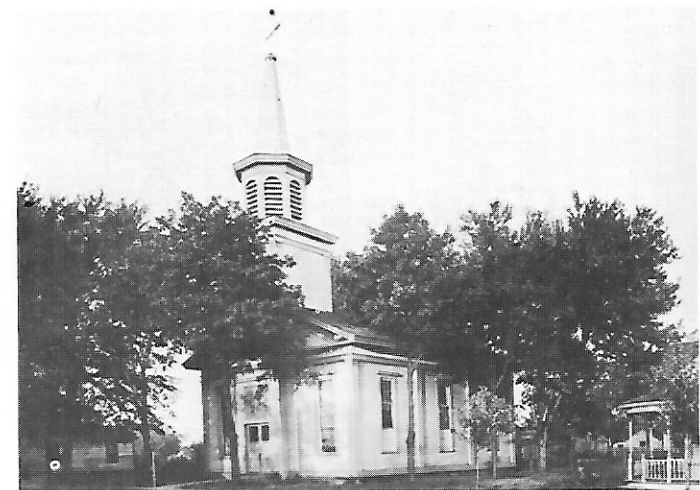
The Winkle Baptist Church



The Catholic Church at Tamaroa — From the Collection of Robert R. Morefield.



St. John's Evangelical Church prior to 1927



The Methodist Church at Tamaroa — From the Robert R. Morefield Collection.